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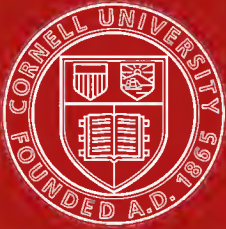


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OUT-LETTERS OF THE
CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE
AND BOARD OF ADMIRALTY



FRANCIS LEWIS.

Engraved by J. C. Wright from an Original Painting 1825.

Francis Lewis

Chairman of the Continental Board of Admiralty

1779-1780

OUT-LETTERS OF THE
CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE
AND BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

AUGUST, 1776—SEPTEMBER, 1780

EDITED BY
CHARLES OSCAR PAULLIN
OF THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON

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OUT-LETTERS OF
THE MARINE COMMITTEE

OUT-LETTERS OF
THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

September 1st. 1778

Gentlemen

We are favoured with yours of the 18th. Ultimo and are now to direct that you will distribute from time to time the One half of the Sea Books amongst such of the Continental officers as may be in want thereof. On the 28th Ultimo we transmitted to you by William Jones an Express 324,000 Dollars which we hope will be safely delivered, and are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

September 14th 1778.

Gentlemen

We are favoured with yours of the 26th August in answer to which we highly approve of your supplying the french fleet with what they may want, and recommend your giving them every assistance in your power, you will please to take proper receipts for every thing

[1]

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

you furnish them with, and keep distinct and clear accounts of the cost and charges attending this business which in due time you will transmit to this Committee in order that they may be settled with the Marine Agent of France at this place.

We desire you will order the Commanders of the Frigates Raleigh, Warren, (should she be returned) or the Deane and the Brig. Resistance to proceed on a Cruise in Company between Cape Henlopen and Occracock on the Coast of North Carolina with a view to take certain armed Vessels fitted out by the Goodriches, or any other of the Enemy's Vessels that may be infesting that coast. That as the Raleigh Warren or Deane and the Brig Resistance may soon be wanted to answer the purpose of Convoy, they are so to manage their Cruise as that they may be ready to receive the future orders of this Committee and for this purpose they are once a Week to put into Cheseapeake Bay and call at the Town of Hampton where they will find such orders lodged, and they are to continue to Cruise and call at Hampton in this manner until they receive their Instructions.

If you think the Vessels ordered to be built for Packets will answer best to be rigged as Brigantines you have our consent so to do.

We are also favoured with yours of the first instant and desire you will apply to General Heath to order the commissarys to return the Provisions you lent General Sullivan of the like kind and quality. We are glad to hear of the arrival of the Brigantine General Gates with her Prizes, but regret very much the loss of her late gallant commander captain Skimmer. You will

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

please to appoint another commander and fit her out on a Cruize as soon as possible.

We enclose an Order from the Board of War for 100 Muskets and Baynets for the use of the Alliance.

The Officers of the Navy since the 10th of October 1776 rank according to the dates of their Commissions, we shall in our next transmit you a List of them and are Gentlemen

Your very Hble servants

P: S: We approve of the purchase you have made of the Cannon Iron and other Articles taken out of the British frigates burned at Newport.

[TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH]

September 14th 1778

Sir

As the difficultys attending sending flour by water from Virginia to Boston woud be so very great, It is our desire that the Orders you have had for that purpose may not be executed but instead thereof the following Order. We desire you will purchase without delay 18000 Barrels flour in Virginia or if necessary in Maryland for the use of the French Squadron and collect the same quickly as possible, and store it at such place in Virginia as the Governor and Council of that State Shall advise will best answer the purpose of speedy delivery to the Squadron when it is called for, and

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

avoid at the same time danger from the enemy and interruption from the frost.

We are sir

Your very Hble servants

P: S: This new order of 18,000 Barrels of Flour is to be considered as over and above all former Orders, that you have received from Congress or the Marine Committee, and it requires to be purchased and collected in Virginia with all possible despatch, as it may be soon called for by the french Admiral. It should be so placed as to be taken off with the greatest facility by the fleet, yet care should be taken against surprize from the enemy and delay from the frost. The enemy being now masters of the Sea between the Capes of Virginia and Boston, perhaps you may see it convenient not to send out flour yet by water for the Army. Lord Howe with a powerful Squadron is hovering between Rhode Island and Boston Bay.—

[TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSARY OF PURCHASES
AT BOSTON]

September 14th 1778

Sir

We have ordered three thousand Barrels flour to be sent forward to Boston from Albany in the State of New York by the Deputy Quarter Master General there for the use of the french Squadron under the command of vice Admiral the Count D'Estaing.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

We desire that you will bake this Flour into Bread, as fast as it may arrive, or as much of it as the Admiral shall think proper; also that you will furnish the fleet with vegetables and a quantity of Meat sufficient for one Month, exclusive of any former Orders as the french Admiral shall direct. We are Sir

Your Hble servants

[TO THE DEPUTY QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL
AT ALBANY]

September 14th 1778

Sir

The French Squadron under the command of vice Admiral the Count D Estaing now in the harbour of Boston being in want of Provisions, we have this day given orders to the Deputy Commissary of Purchases at Albany immediately to purchase three thousand Barrels Flour and to deliver the Same to you which we desire you will take the most speedy and effectual measures to have transported to Boston and there delivered to the Count D Estaing for the use of his fleet. You will take proper receipts on the delivery of the flour which with an Account of All Charges attending the transportation transmit in due time to this Committee. We have wrote to General Schuyler requesting him to give you his Opinion touching the quickest and best manner of conveying this Flour, and to use his influence in assisting you. Relying upon your activity in the speedy execution of this business

We are sir

Your Hble servants

[5]

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER]

September 14 1778

Sir

The French fleet under the command of Vice Admiral the Count D Estaing now lying at the harbour of Boston being in want of Provisions, we have this day given orders to the Deputy Commissary of Purchases at Albany immediately to purchase Three Thousand Barrels flour and deliver the same to the Deputy Quarter Master at that place to be by him transported with all expedition to Boston and there delivered for the use of the said fleet.

We request that you will give the Quarter Master your opinion touching the quickest and best manner of conveying this flour, and use your influence that it be done with all despatch which is of much importance.

We are Sir

Your Hble servants

[TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY
OF ALBANY]

September 14th 1778.

Gentlemen

The french fleet under the command of vice Admiral the Count d Estaing now lying in the Harbour of Boston being in want of Provisions we have written to the Deputy Commissary of Purchases at Albany to

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

purchase three thousand Barrels flour and deliver the same to the Deputy Quarter Master General at that place to be by him transported in the quickest and best manner to Boston there to be delivered for the use of the said fleet.

We now take the liberty to request you to assist the Deputy Quarter Master in carrying this Order into speedy execution which is of much consequence & are

Gentlemen

Your very Hble servants

[TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSARY OF PURCHASES
AT ALBANY]

Septemr 14th 1778

Sir

The French fleet under the command of vice Adl. the Count D'Estaing now lying in the harbour of Boston being much in want of Provision, you are hereby directed forthwith to purchase three thousand Barrels of good Flour, and deliver the same to the Deputy Quarter Master at Albany to be by him transported to Boston for the use of the said fleet. We are

Sir

Your hble servants

[TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL]

September 25th 1778

Sir

This Committee having been honored with your Letters of the regard due to your recommen-

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

dation induced them to move in Congress the Appointment of Captain Seth Harding for the command of the Continental ship of war building at Norwich in Connecticut—and have the pleasure to acquaint you that he had the unanimous Vote accordingly—the ship is named the Confederacy. I am with the most cordial esteem and respect in behalf of the Committee

Your Excellency

Obedt. Hble Servant

RICHARD HENRY LEE Chn

[TO LIEUTENANT LUKE MATHEWMAN¹]

September 26th 1778

Sir

You are to proceed with all the despatch that wind and weather will permit to the Island of Martinico and deliver the letters for the Marquise De Bouillé to him with your own hands.

The Letter No 1 you are to deliver to the Captain of the first french or spanish vessel that you may meet with at Sea. The Letters for Mr. Bingham Agent for the United States in Martinico you will deliver safely to him, and you are to follow his directions touching the manner in which the schooner under your command is to be employed until the season arrives in the Spring when you may safely venture to return to Philadelphia. You will avoid unnecessarily speaking with vessels at Sea, least you fall into the hands of an enemy; and you

¹ Commander of the Continental schooner Phoenix.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

are to put your despatches all into a Bag with a proper weight therein effectually to sink the Letters if unavoidable danger of being taken should threaten you. Wishing you a good voyage and a safe return

I am Sir

Your hble servant¹

P: S: Should you have a short passage to Martinico and think you can return here before the winter becomes severe we would have you loose no time but return immediately.

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

September 28th. 1778

Gentlemen

We have received your favour of the 8th. instant and intirely approve of your proceedings mentioned therein. We are now to inform you that Congress have named the new frigate Building at Norwich in Connecticut the Confederacy and have appointed Captain Seth Harding of that State to command her.

That Gentleman hath given us very strong assurances that he will be able to man her in a very short time; and we now request that your exertions may be used to have her fitted for the Sea as speedily as possible. We are Gentn

Your very Hble servants

¹ This letter was probably signed by Richard Henry Lee, chairman of the Marine Committee.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY]

September 28th 1778

Sir

We have received your favour of the 8th instant from Boston and are sorry to hear that so many of the Guns on board the Raleigh had burst in proving but we hope they will be speedily replaced and that you will shortly receive this letter at Hampton agreeable to our former Instructions which you acknowledge having received.

As you represent the Raleigh to be exceedingly foul and on that account very unfit to cruize upon the Coast, we have concluded that you had best proceed with her to Portsmouth in Virginia where there is a Continental Ship Yard and on applying to our Agents there, Messrs. Maxwell & Loyal & to Mr. David Stoddart the master Builder in the yard they will furnish you with conveniencies and lend you assistance to have her Bottom cleaned. You will advise us of the time that you think that business will be compleated, and should you not receive fresh Orders from us, you will proceed to cruize upon the Coast, and call in at Hampton once a fortnight for our Orders until you receive them. Should the frigate Deane and any other Vessel be in company with you, you will order them to cruize while you are careering. We wish you Success & are Sir

Your very hble servants

P: S: Since writing the foregoing Instructions we have had information that the british frigate Persius¹ of 32

¹ H. B. M. S. Perseus.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Guns is cruizing singly on the Coast of South Carolina. This intelligence has determined us to give you orders to extend your Cruizing along the Coast provided the Deane or any other vessel is in company with you, therefore if you have a Concert as soon as you have got your Ship cleaned in Virginia we desire you will proceed to the Southward in Search of the Persius and use your best endeavours to take, burn, sink or destroy the said frigate or any other of the enemies vessels that you may fall in with. Should you be so fortunate as to take the Persius, carry her into Charles Town and there have her fitted and manned and take her to Cruize in company with you.—

[TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH]

Sir

September 29th 1778

Enclosed are the Resolves of this Committee passed during your absence, which I have been ordered to furnish you with.—

By letters lately received from your Deputy at Albany and from the deputy quarter Master at that place, it appears that it will not be practicable to send forward in time to Boston the flour ordered from Albany for the use of the French fleet. The Committee have therefore to propose that 1500 Barrels flour more than what has already been ordered, should be sent from the Magazine nearest to Boston for the use of the French Fleet.

We are Sir

Your Hble servts

By order JOHN BROWN secy

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO WILLIAM SMITH]

October 1. 1778.

Sir

We are favoured with yours of the 22d. Ultimo enclosing Captain Whippys receipt for £28,14,4 and Captain Stiles receipt for £96.10.0 Lawful Money which we shall transmit to the Navy Board of the Eastern Department. We are glad to hear that a Vessel offers to take in on freight the 200 Barrels flour remaining in your hands, which please to ship on board of her; and as the flour at Senepuxent is in danger of spoiling we wish you would agree for the Vessel to call in there and take the flour & barr Iron that remains at that place. Should you not be able to make this agreement we have directed the Commissary General of Purchases, to give Orders for Shipping as much Bread as the Vessel can take in.

You will please to take Bills of Lading deliverable to the Navy Board at Boston, and desire the Board to deliver the Bread that may be shipped, to the french Admiral for the use of his fleet taking proper receipts. We doubt not but you will make the best agreement for the freight that you can, and we request you will as soon as convenient furnish your Account in Order that a settlement may be made. We are Sir

Your very hble servants

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

October 10th. 1778

Gentlemen

The enclosed receipts have been received from William Smith Esqr agent to the Marine Committee at Baltimore, and are for money he advanced Captain Whippey of the Schooner Loyallty, and Captain Stiles of the Schooner Swan, to pay the Disbursments of their Vessels— They are now transmitted to you for your government in settling the accounts of those Vessels.

I am Gentlemen

Your hble servant

JOHN BROWN secy

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

October 10th 1778

Sir

The Committee are informed that it has been the practice among your Deputys in the Eastern States to Exchange Prisoners made by the French Fleet without proper Authority.

It is the desire of the Committee that you will give strict orders forbiding this practice on any Account unless when ordered by the Admiral or Minister of France. I am sir

Your hble servant

JOHN BROWN secy

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

October 14th. 1778

Sir

The Minister Plenipotentiary of France having informed Congress that a Negotiation for the Exchange of the respective Prisoners of his most Christian Majesty and the King of Great Britain being began and near the term of its conclusion it becomes important to accelerate this settlement that the King of France's Prisoners be immediately removed to the places where the Exchanges are actually to be made. Therefore we now direct that without delay you will take effectual measures for collecting all Prisoners to the King of France that may be on this side of Hudsons River, at, or as near to Elizabeth town in the State of New Jersey as may be proper for their Safety; and also those Prisoners that are on the other side of said River, at New London in the state of Connecticut, at both which places they are to be safely kept until orders for their disposal are given by the Minister of France or the Count D'Estaing. It is our desire that you produce the same number of Prisoners to the King of France that has been delivered to you or your deputies replacing those by an equal number of Prisoners of the same Class belonging to the United States, those only excepted of his most Christian Majestys Prisoners which his Excellency the vice Admiral commanding his Squadron, or the Minister of France should have formally and graciously released. You must keep perfect and distinct Accounts of all expences

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

attending the Prisoners of his most Christian Majesty which accounts you are to have ready to be delivered when called for by the minister of France or his excellency the Count D'Estaing.

We doubt not all due attention will be given to these our orders and are sir

Your very Hble Servants

P: S: You will please to observe that Mr. William Straker [?] and his two slaves are not to be removed from this City until particular Orders are given for that purpose by the Minister.

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

Sir

October 16th. 1778.

We have been informed that the business of retaining and Exchanging Marine Prisoners is not conducted by your Deputy at Boston with that attention which is necessary—therefore we request that you will immediately give Orders that all due regard be had to that business and that in exchanging your said Deputy be observant and governed by the Orders of the Honorable the Navy Board of the Eastern Department. Mr. David Waterbury now a Prisoner on Parole in the State of Connecticut was taken by the enemy on Lake Champlain in the Month of October 1776 when he had the command of a Galley in the service of these States. We consider Mr. Waterbury at the time he was taken as a Captain in the Marine Line, and as such we request you will enter him

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

on your List to be exchanged for an officer of equal rank when a proper opportunity shall offer.

We are sir

Your Hble servts

[TO MAXWELL AND LOYALL]

Gentlemen

October 17th. 1778

We have determined to resume the building of One of the Frigates that are on the stocks at Gosport, and now direct that you will immediately proceed to build that One of the said frigates which at this time is most forward—the work done towards the other you will secure, so as to prevent damage from the weather. To enable you to go on with this business we send you by the bearer hereof Mr. James White 20,000 Dollars agreeable to his receipt enclosed, which we doubt not you will manage with the greatest Economy and give great attention and dispatch to the business committed to your care.

You will inform us from time to time of your proceedings &

We are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

[TO GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH]

Sir

October 20th. 1778.

We have been informed that [it] has been the practice to the Eastward to Exchange the Prisoners taken by

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE
the French fleet without the consent of the Admiral or
the Minister of France.

We request that you will give Strict Orders forbidding this practice unless when done with the consent of the Admiral or the Minister aforesaid.

We are sir

Your Hble servants

[TO WILLIAM SMITH]

October 24th 1778

Sir

We have received your Letter of the instant informing us of the Arrival of the Schooner Swan at your Port.

As you have already shipped the flour that remained in your care on board a Vessel for Boston and as the Captain of the Swan does not relish proceeding to Senepuxent for what flour and Iron remains there; We have directed the Commissary General of Purchases to give immediate orders for a lading of flour at your Port or any other place in Cheseapeake Bay that may be more convenient to the Magazines. You will order the Captain to proceed where he may be directed to take in his Cargo. In our last we wrote you to send your Accounts and now request you will do so as soon as you can. Please to particularize the quantities shipped in each Vessel and what remains at Senepuxent. We must request you to take Bills of Lading & Invoice for the flour

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

now to be shipped in the Swan and send the same to the Navy Board at Boston.

We are Sir

Your Hble Servants

P: S: We are just now informed that a frigate & two or three small armed Vessels of the enemy are now cruising in Cheseapeake which have taken some private Vessels laded with flour bound to the Eastward. This renders it necessary that the Swan should not be dispatched until you know the Bay to be cleared of the enemys Cruizers.

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

October 25th 1778

Gentlemen

We have received your favours of the 16th & 27th September and 7th instant. We have directed the Commissary General of Purchases to order his Deputy at Boston to deliver you 1000 Bushels Salt for the purpose of putting up Provisions for the use of the Navy. The loss of the Raleigh is certainly a very great misfortune, but we have a consolation in reflecting that the spirited and gallant behaviour of her commander has done honor to our flag—we desire that you will order a Court of enquiry on Captain Barrys conduct. Captain Harding has been appointed to the command of the Frigate at Norwich named the Confederacy which prevents our giving that Ship to Captain Barry. We expect by the

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

time that this gets to hand that the Boston, Providence and Ranger are arrived and also the Warren, all which Vessels you will immediately again get ready for the Sea as well as those that are now in port and keep them for our farther Orders, unless some favourable opportunity should present of giving the enemy an important stroke which we would have you improve. We expect the Confederacy will be ready to join this fleet. It is probable the Frigate Alliance will be shortly wanted to carry the Marquis D La Fayette to France we desire therefore that you will get her in readiness as soon as possible, and order suitable accommodations on board for the Marquis and his suit, but this we would have you keep Secret lest the enemy should get intelligence and watch for the ship.

We are Gentlemen
Your Hble servants

[TO CAPTAIN PABLO PAULIS PALERMO¹]

October 26th. 1778.

Sir

We have received your Letter dated the 16th September advising your arrival in Georgia with despatches for Congress from Mr. Pollock at New Orleans which have come safe to hand.

We are sorry the Boat you came in is so very small as to render it too hazardous to return in her—We have given Instructions to Abram Livingston Esquire our Agent at Charles Town to furnish you and your people with the means of returning to New Orleans which at

¹ This letter was addressed to Charleston, South Carolina.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

present is all we can do, not having it in our power to comply with your wishes by giving you the command of a Privateer.

Mr. Livingston will settle and pay your wages and that of your Crew according to agreement you made with Mr. Pollock.

We return you thanks for the faithful and punctual delivery of your despatches and wishing you a Speedy & safe return.

We are sir
Your very Hble servts

[TO ABRAHAM LIVINGSTON¹]

October 26th. 1778.

Sir

There is now at your place Captain Pablo Paulis Palermo who came in a small Boat from New Orleans to Georgia with despatches for Congress. As the Boat in which he came is too small to venture back in, and as there is a necessity that Captain Palermo and his Crew should be sent Back; we request you will furnish him and his people with the means of returning to New Orleans, also that you will settle and pay them their wages allowing the Captain 40 Dollars and the men 12 Dollars per month to commence on the first day of July last. Our Agent at New Orleans advanced some Money to the people before they left that place which please to deduct from their wages agreeable to the Account be-

¹ Livingston was the Continental agent at Charleston, South Carolina.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

low. We understand this agreement to be made for silver Dollars and such must be paid to the captain and his men.

We are sir

Your Hble servants

Paid—to Manuel a Spaniard	6 ps.
1 pr. Blankets to Do	5.11
—— Boy Will	8 —
A Hatt to Do.	3.11
—— three Spaniards 6 ps. ea:	18.
	—— 40 pieces

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD
OF THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

October 27th 1778.

Gentlemen

Since our last of the 25th instant we have been favoured with yours of the 15th by Captain Barry with the sundry enclosures therein mentioned. We have now to desire that you will with all expedition prepare a frigate to carry despatches to France and we would prefer the Alliance to any other if she can be fitted in time so as not to detain the Marquis De Lafayette and his suit who are to take their passage in her and for whom you will Order proper accommodations on board. She should be well cleaned & get a Tallow Bottom before she leaves the Port. As the Marquis is a

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Nobleman of France highly esteemed by Congress as a Zealous and able friend to the American cause we desire you will give Instructions to the Captain to treat him with All possible respect, and not leave his course to Cruise during the passage. You will also instruct the Captain on his Arrival in France to send forward the enclosed Letters to the Honble Benjamin Franklin Esqr Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at Paris and to inform him of his arrival. He is immediately to apply to the American Agent at the Port in France where he may arrive for any supplies or necessaries for his Ship and get ready to follow such orders as he may receive from Doctor Franklin which he is to obey.

We shall very shortly transmit you a Supply of Money for the use of your Department and are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

P: S: We have determined that Captain Joseph Hardy shall command the Marines on board the New frigate Confederacy you will please to order him accordingly.

[TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN]

October 27th 1778.

Sir

This will go by a Continental Frigate from Boston which Congress has Ordered to carry their despatches as well as to accommodate the Marquis De Lafayette and his Suit with a passage to France.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

The Captain will on his Arrival inform you thereof, and we have directed that he get his Vessel in readiness to follow any orders which you may think proper to give, which orders he is bound to obey. Should you send him back with dispatches he will take in any Stores for the use of the States that may be in readiness at the Port where he may arrive so as not to incommode the sailing or fighting of his Ship. We have the honor to be

Honble Sir

Your very Hble Servants

[TO GOVERNOR THOMAS JOHNSTON¹]

November 6th 1778

Sir

We are informed by Letter from William Smith Esqr. our Agent at Baltimore that a Sloop called the Friendship Edward Freeman Master on which he had shipped some flour for the use of the Navy in the Eastern Department, and the Commissary of Purchases had laded the remainder of her Cargo for the use of the Army, had been seized by the Naval officer of your State at Baltimore.

We are now to inform your Excellency and Council that having conferred with the Commissary we find the Cargo of said Vessel to be entirely public property, shipped by our Agent afsd. by order of this Committee and by the Commissary General of Purchases who are

¹ Governor of Maryland.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

fully authorized by Congress for that purpose, We therefore request that Orders may be given for the releasment of the said Vessel as the provisions are exceedingly wanted for the use of the Army and Navy at the Eastward. There is also a vessel at Baltimore a Sloop called the Swan under the Care of our Agent afsd. which we have Ordered to be laded with flour from the Public Stores & for which we request you will grant permission.

We have the Honor to be

Your Excellencys

Obedt servants

[TO WILLIAM SMITH¹]

November 6th. 1778

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 31st. ultimo in consequence of which we have this day wrote to the Governor & Council of your State on the subject of the seizure of the Sloop Friendship, which we expect will procure her releasement, but least that should fail we shall lay your Letter with a state of the affair before Congress and get their determination thereon.—

We have wrote for permission to lade the Swan and doubt not the same will be granted.

We are sir

Your hble servants

¹ Of Baltimore, Maryland.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA]

Sirs

Novemr. 7th 1778

The Minister of France having applied to this Committee for the use of a Small Vessel to preceede the French Frigate Chimere down the Bay of Delaware for the purpose of reconnoitring and as it is not in our power to furnish a Suitable Vessel, we request the favour that you would order the state sloop commanded by Captain Wade to go on this service when`required of which we shall give him notice.—

We shall pay any expences that may arise during the time we have the sloop and shall thankfully acknowledge the favour. We have the honor to be Gentlemen

Your Obedient servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD
OF THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Gentlemen

November 9th 1778

We have been favoured with yours of the 19th & 28th ultimo the latter of which containing many important matters we shall take time fully to deliberate upon and will make it the subject of a future Letter. Your reasons for leaving the Ranger at Portsmouth Meets our intire approbation.

We have already expressed our wishes for the Speedy equipment of all our vessels, and we doubt not your best exertions will be used for that purpose—if they can be

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

got ready to sail in time the force will be greater than any we have yet been able to send out, and we have Sanguine expectations that something may be done of consequence to make up for the bad success that hath hitherto attended our Navy. To enable you to go on with the business we now send by the bearer hereof Mr. Jesse Brown 150,000 Dollars which we hope will be sufficient for some time. You will give us timely information when more Money will be required which shall be supplied, having the fullest confidence that the business of your department will be conducted with the greatest Economy.

Pray inform the Marquise Delafayette that he is at Liberty to take such Gentlemen with him on board the frigate in which he is to take his passage to france as he may think proper, & if agreeable to him particularly Lt. Colonel Duplessis who is desirous of taking a passage with him. We shall shortly write to you again and in the mean time are with great regard, Gentlemen

Your very hble Servants

[TO COLONEL WILLIAM AYLETT¹]

Sir

November 15th 1778

We request you will immediately inform us what quantity of flour you have purchased for the use of the French Fleet and where you have stored the same.

We are sir

Your Hble servants

¹ Deputy Commissary-General of Purchases in Virginia.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

November 16th. 1778

Gentlemen

Our last of the 9th. instant acknowledged the receipt of yours of the 28th. Ultimo which we have since duely considered.

We shall now repeat what we have been pressing for in our late Letters vizt. your greatest exertions in preparing the Continental Armed Vessels now in the Ports of your department for Sea, being well convinced that you will do every thing in your power for the speedy accomplisht. of that desireable business. In future you will please to observe that when Continental Vessels arrive in your Ports they are again to be fitted with all expedition for the sea, and you are to transmit to this Committee weekly an Account of their Number, situation and the time you think they will be ready to sail. With regard to the Vessels that are now fitting out at your ports, and also with regard to those Vessels that may hereafter arrive, when they are fitted for the sea you will send them out to cruize against our enemies either collectively or singly as you shall judge proper, useing your discretion as to the time for which their Cruizes shall continue, and your best judgment in directing the commanders to such places and on such stations as you shall think will be for the general benefit of the United States, and to annoy and distress the Enemy.

At present we consider it an Object of importance to

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

destroy the infamous Goodrich¹ who has much infested our Coast, Cruizing with a squadron of 4, 5, or 6 armed Vessels from 16 Guns downwards from Egg harbour to Cape Fear in North Carolina, therefore you will please to order a Sufficient force to range the said Coast to remove that nusence, Observing generally that the vessels are not to remain too long on any station lest the enemy should get intelligence and send a superior force against them.

By a Vessel arrived here lately in 17 Days from Bermuda we learn that four Vessels of Goodriches Squadron were carreening at that place when she sailed.

Congress have established Pursers in the Navy to all ships not under 16 Guns, also an abatement on Slops delivered to Seamen who will enter for twelve months, and provision in the distribution of Prize Money for the Carpenters & Gunners Mates who have been heretofore neglected. We shall send the Resolves by the next Oppority.

We have desired the Commissary General of Prisoners to give strict orders to his deputy at Boston to be attentive to the retaining & exchanging of Marine Prisoners under the direction of your Board, which we hope will be sufficient to remove the inconveniences you have pointed out. We request that all further attempts to get out the ship Trumbull may be laid aside for the present unless some very favourable opportunity should speedily offer.

We have lately been informed of the Capture of the Schooner Pigot at Rhode Island mounting Eight 12pdr. Cannon and wish you to purchase her Guns for

¹ A Tory privateersman.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Continental use. In a late letter from Captain Landais he mentions his not having received the Subsistance Money of 5½ Dollars allowed him by Resolve of Congress of the 25th July 1777. You will please to pay him that Subsistance from the date of his Commission which is the 9th of May 1778 he being in Actual service since that time and consequently intitled to receive it—Captain Landais recommends the use of Powder proofs on board our Ships, we request you will write by the first opportunity to France for 3 doz of them. You will please to inform Captain Hinman that the Papers relative to Captain Thompsons trial are copying and shall shortly be sent forward to your Board.

By Mr. Brown an Express who carried our letter of the 9th instant we sent you 150,000 Dollars and shall shortly remit you a further supply for the use of your Department. We are Gentlemen

Your hble Servants

P: S: It is our desire that the Ship Ranger be sent out under the command of Lieutenant Simpson. we have determined that an abatement of 50 p Ct. shall be made on the first cost of Slops delivered to Seamen who will enter for twelve months but you will take care to order them to be distributed properly so as that the Seamen shall not leave the Vessels in debt.—

[TO WILLIAM SMITH]

Sir

Novemr. 18th. 1778

We request the favour of you to transmit to us by the first Oppty a minute and accurate detail of the whole

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

circumstances relative to the Sloop Friendship—we wish you to give us the dates of the Agreeamt. made by the Commissary the Seizure &c and to inform us what part if any of the Cargo was private property, whether an Appeal has been made and by who

We are with regard

Sir Your very Hble servts

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

November 19th 1778

Gentlemen

Annexed are extracts of Letters of yesterdays date from the Honble the Sr. Gerard minister of France to Congress, which have been referred to this Committee with directions to comply with the requests therein contained.

You will please to order the Captain of the frigate in which the Marquis Delafayette is to take his passage to france to afford Convoy to the Vessel in which the French Prisoners are to embark as far as requested by the Minister and also to accommodate the Chevalier De Remondis Captain of the Ceaser with a passage in the said frigate to France particularly recommending him to be treated with all kindness & respect

We are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY]

November 20th 1778

Sir

Congress having by a Resolve dated the 10th instant directed you to take the command of all the Armed Vessels that are to be employed on an intended expedition against east Florida, subject to the Orders of the commander in chief in the Southern Department, we think proper to give the following directions which you are duly to observe.

You are forthwith to proceed to Maryland, and there apply to Governor Johnston, who is requested by Congress to put under your command all the armed Gallies, that shall be manned and fitted out by that government for the expedition, and if upon your arrival you should find any of them not ready for Sea, you will then use your best endeavours to expedite their equipment with the utmost dispatch.—

As Congress have also requested a number of Gallies from the State of Virginia and as your security on the voyage to Charles Town will in some measure depend upon a junction of the Gallies from each State, it is highly requisite you should make yourself immediately Acquainted either by Letter or applying to the Governor in person, with the number of Gallies that will be fitted out by that government, and the time they will be ready for Sea, and if those from Maryland can be equiped nearly about the same, and it is not disagreeable to the Governor of Virginia, you will then so govern your measures as to form a junction of your little

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[fleet?] in some convenient place in Virginia from whence you will proceed to Charles Town in South Carolina.

If Virginia should not be disposed to furnish any of her Gallies for this expedition or if it should be disagreeable to either of the Governors of Maryland or Virginia that the Gallies of each State should sail in company, you will then proceed with those from the State of Maryland. If Maryland should not be in a situation to furnish and equip her Gallies for this expedition, you will then if not disagreeable to the Governor of Virginia take the command of those to be furnished by that state. You are to assist as far as lies in your power in manning and equipping the gallies from each State, and to be careful in establishing a proper system of Signals for the government of your fleet. You are to receive from the Quarter Master General on board the Gallies from Maryland a quantity of bar Iron not exceeding ten Ton. When you arrive in Charles Town in the State of South Carolina you will there receive and obey the orders of the commander in chief in the Southern Department.

We recommend it to you to cultivate harmony among your officers and Men as essentially necessary to the public service and trusting much to your valour and good conduct, We have strong hopes of a favourable Issue to the intended expedition.

We are sir

Your Hble Servts

P: S: You are from time to time to give us full information of your proceedings.—

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

November 24. 1778

Gentlemen

Since our last of the 19th we are favoured with yours of the 5th instant—we are pleased to find you have settled Colo. Langdons account and paid him the balance. We observe you have contracted for building two of the Packet Boats we ordered which we think will be sufficient for the present as everything is so extravagantly dear—If you have not already agreed for building a third One we desire it may not be done.

The Bill you have drawn upon us in favour of Colo. Langdon when it appears shall be duely honored & paid.

The enclosed Resolves of the 26th August 1776 will inform you what provision Congress have made for Officers & Seamen disabled in their service—We are now forming a New System of Rules & Regulations for the Navy and would be glad you would send us any remarks that you may think will assist in that work. Application has been lately made to us for pay and Prize Money by Mr. Hill who it appears has served with a good deal of Merit as a volunteer on board the Ship Ranger. We think when he acted as an officer where there was a vacancy he ought to receive the same pay as the officer in whose station he acted, and we request you will ascertain that matter and pay him accordingly. With regard to his prize Money we cannot

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

order him more than a Common Share, but are opinion if he did act in a vacancy that the Officers the class should allow him the share of the officer who placed he filled.

We request you will forward us an exact List of the Commissioned Officers in your department with the dates of their Commissions and how they are now employed.

We are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

November 25th 1778

Gentlemen

This will be delivered to you by Lt. Colo. Crenis lately in the Service of the United States, he having taken leave of the Congress to resign his Commission, and being desirous of embracing the earliest Opportunity of going to France, he purposes at Boston [to apply] to the Marquis De Lafayette in hopes of being Accommodated with a passage on board the frigate destined for Accommodating the Marquis, but in case Lt. Col. Crenis should fail in that application and apply to you we desire you will give him a passage in the first Vessel you may send to France. We are Gentl

Your most hble servants

¹ Chevalier de Crenis, lieutenant-colonel of cavalry.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Decemr. 2d 1778

Gentlemen

With our Letter of the 24th ultimo we transmitted you a Resolve of Congress directing an abatement on the first cost of Slops delivered to seamen in the Navy, we think it necessary to Observe that this Deduction is to be made only from the cost of Slops purchased in America.

In a late letter from Captain Abram Whipple he mentions that the Advance you had charged upon Slops taken up in France by the Crews of the Vessels lately arrived had caused discontent and would be very detrimental in remanning the Ships.—We request you will inform us relative to the Advance you charged with your reasons for fixing the Same and are

Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

January 5th 1779

Gentlemen

It is the desire of the Marine Committee, that upon application being made to your Board by William Scal-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

lon and Redmond Lyons late belonging to the Continental Cutter called the Revenge, for the balance their wages that you will pay them the same as Stal underneath and transmit their receipts to this Committee

By Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

Wm. Scallon Cpts Clerk for Wages from	
the 17th July 1777 to the 18th October	
1778—15 mos. 15 Dollars	225 Dollars
deduct cash he reced at Bilbao	95 130 ballance
Redmond Lyons M:S:man wages from	
1 July 1777 to 15 Octobr. 1778 15 m.	
15 d. 12 dollars	186 Dollars
Deduct cash at Bilbao	87
	— 99 Dollars bala

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

January 9th 1779

Gentlemen

Your Letter of the 9th instant ultimo was received duly notified; the Committee have applied for a Warrant for a further supply of money for the use of your Department, which will be forwarded immediately after it shall be obtained—you will please to send your accounts of expenditures with all possible dispatch.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

The Southern States especially Virginia & Maryland, are alarmed and very justly with the number of Goodriches Fleet, as it may be called, and their success in capturing many vessels—indeed few escape that are sailing out or into Chesapeake Bay—Effectual measures must be immediately taken to prevent their depredations; The Committee are in daily hopes of hearing that a Sufficient force is cruizing on that Coast, pursuant to their Letters to your Board in November last. It is a matter of great importance not only to those particular States but to the United States in general, for much of the public business of the Continent in the way of necessary supplies and Remittances is done in that Bay. We shall answer your Letter more particularly in our next. In the mean time we remain with sentiments of regard Gentlemen

Your very Hble Servants

[TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS]

January 22d. 1779

Gentlemen

We have the honor of acquainting the Honble the Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay, by the direction of Congress that the Minister Plenipotentiary of France hath appointed and commissioned Monsr. De Valnais to be Consul in the Port of Boston and other Ports in the said State. We are Gentlemen

Your very hble servants

[37]

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Gentlemen January 26th 1779

Congress have lately granted 150,576 Dollars for the
use of your Department in Warrants as follows, viz

On the Continental Treasurer for	50,000
On John Laurence Esqr Commis- sioner of the Continental Loan Office in the State of Connecticut	100,000
On James Warren Esqr Boston—for	576
	<hr/>
	150,576 Dollars

The two last Warrants are indorsed in your favour and
we shall send you the Money for that on the Treasurer
by the first opportunity. We are Gentn

Your Hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Gentlemen February 1st. 1779

General Greene¹ the Quarter Master General having
made application to this Committee for four hundred
Pieces of light Sail Duck, suitable for making tents for

¹ Major-General Nathanael Greene.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

the Army, we referred him to the Committee of Commerce who having wrote to Mr. Bradford the Agent at Boston desiring him to consult with your Board, and if he had your approbation to deliver that quantity or as much as can be spared. Provided this Duck can be spared without prejudice to the Navy we request you will give orders for the delivery of it.

We are Gentlemen

Your Hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

February 5th 1779

Gentlemen

In our Letter to you of the 26th Ultimo, we enclosed you two warrants of Congress vizt.

One on the Loan Office of Con-	
necticut for	100,000 Drs.
the other on James Warren Esqr. .	576

100,576

We now send you by the bearer	
hereof Joseph Millett an Express	
as per his receipt enclosed . . .	50,000

Which makes in All 150,576 Dollars

granted by Congress for the use of your Board in Warrants dated the 16th ultimo. We request you will

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

acknowledge the receipt of the warrants and the Money mentioned above also of 150,000 Dollars sent you in November last.

We are Gentlemen

Your Hble Servants

P: S: We wrote you some time ago for a List of the Commissioned Officers in your Department with the dates of their Commissions, Pray send the same forward by the first Opportunity.

[TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL]

February 10th 1779

Sir

By an express from the Navy Board in the Eastern Departt. the Marine Committee had the honor of receiving your letter to them of the 22 January respecting the enemies armed Vessels in the sound, and the probability of taking or destroying them by joining the force of the Confederacy to the two State Ships—They were anxious of adding the Confederacy to the Number of these Ships destined for an other service; But the Object you have in view is so very desireable, and the accomplishment of it from your representation attended with so little danger or delay, that they have fallen into the measure and consented to join the Confederacy to the State Ships—You suppose a few days will be sufficient to answer the ends you have in view, and it is under this state of the case that I am by the direction of this Committee to inform your Excellency

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

that Captain Harding will receive orders to Obey you, and take your directions for the government of his conduct in the proposed expedition, but not to exceed ten [days] after the Sailing of his Ship from New London in the said expedition tho should the service be performed in a shorter time the Captain is then to proceed with the Utmost dispatch agreeable to your Instructions.

I have the honor to be
Your Excellencys most obedt
Hble servant
S. ADAMS Chairman

[TO CAPTAIN JOSEPH OLNEY¹]

February 10th. 1779

Sir

You are to sail immediately upon the receipt of these Orders Instructions unless there be powerful reasons to the contrary, and sweep in the first place this coast from the Southward of Cape May to the Bar of Charles Town, and afterwards to Cruize in such Latitudes and Longitudes which are best calculated to give the greatest aid and protection to the Trade of Delaware, Chesapeake and Charles Town, and as often as circumstances and the safety of your Ships will admit of it, you are to enter the mouths of Delaware & Chesapeake for the purpose of destroying the small armed Vessels from

¹ Commander of the Queen of France.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

New York that lurk about the Capes to the certain destruction of almost every Merchantman that sails—You are at the same time to be extremely cautious in continuing in any of these places so long as to render yourself a certain Object for the pursuit of the enemy. If in the Course of this Cruize you should meet with the Deane or the Confederacy or both of them it is our orders, that you and they proceed on this Cruize in Company under the command of the Superior Officer to execute these Orders, and least you should be separated by Storms or other circumstances, it would be advisable to establish such Private Signals that when the Ships meet again they may be known to each Other as friends.

The great delay expence and trouble in manning the Ships for Sea has induced this Committee to direct and Order you, to continue this Cruize as long as your Provisions and other circumstances will admit. As soon as you meet with the Deane or the Confederacy, you will give the Captains of these Ships a Copy of these Instructions, for the government of their conduct.

The superiority of the Naval force of the enemy on this Coast and the misfortunes that have heretofore happened to some of our ships, will we trust make you extremely vigilant and active—the confidence we repose in your fidelity courage and good conduct, gives us every reason to hope for a successful Cruize. Most of the Armed Vessels from New York are inferior in force to yourself, which will put it in your power to aid the Trade of the Southern States by destroying many of them and thereby to render not only essential service to the Public, but to add to the honor and reputation of your own character.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

You are to keep these Instructions a profound Secret, and when the state of your Provisions requires, you will return into the Port of Philadelphia or some convenient one in the Bay of Cheseapeake from whence you are to give the earliest intelligence of your Arrival to this Committee.

We wish you success and are Sir

Your Hble servants

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING¹]

February 10th 1779

Sir

You will receive and obey the orders and directions of his Excellency Governor Trumbull in a proposed expedition against the enemys Ships in the Western Sound. We expect you are victualled and equiped for a Long Cruize and if the Object the governor has in veiw is not accomplished in ten days after your sailing from New London, you are to hold yourself no longer bound by his Orders, and if the business is done in less time than ten days you will immediately afterwards proceed to Sea and govern yourself by the following Instructions. You are to sweep in the first place &c &c.

N: B: The remainder of these Instructions were exactly similar to those given Captain Olney of this date.

¹ Commander of the frigate Confederacy.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

February 10th 1779

Gentlemen

We have your favours of the 9th 16th & 25th december, 6th, 13th, 15th, 21st. & 27th ultimo, which at present we have not time to answer, but we shall shortly consider their Contents and reply to such parts as may be necessary.

In consequence of your last letter of the 27th and the letter Inclosed therein from Governor Trumbull we have ordered Captain Harding in the Confederacy to join the State Ships in the proposed attack upon the enemies Vessels in the Western sound, and have allowed ten days after the sailing of his Ship from New London harbour for compleating that expedition, and if not done in that time he has our Instructions to proceed without delay on a Cruize upon the Coast to the southward, or sooner should the expedition be accomplished, We hope you have taken due Care to have that ship properly victualled and fitted for a long Cruize—We send you enclosed herein Coppies of our Letters to Governor Trumbull and of our Orders to Captains Harding and Olney—the latter we have ordered to Cruize to the southward. We expect by the time this gets to hand that the ship Ranger will be compleated for the Sea—if so—or as soon after as she can be made ready we desire you will send her on a Cruize upon the Coast to the southward with Orders to join (if possible) the

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Deane, Queen of France & Confederacy and to Cruize in Company with those Ships.

We doubt not your most vigorous exertions are employed in preparing for Sea the Other Ships in the Port of Boston we have little hopes that they can be all manned shortly & would suggest to you the propriety of putting the men engaged with the other Ships on board that Ship which has the best prospect of being first manned and by that means compleating her complement. Should you adopt this plan, you will do it in the best manner so as to keep the Seamen in good humour. We shall shortly again write to you respecting our Instructions with regard to the employment of the Ships you are now fitting out, in the mean time you will keep us constantly advised of their condition and the expectations you have of compleating them—we request you will acquaint us with the state of the Ship building at Portsmouth in New Hampshire.

We have given Orders for purchasing a quantity of Flour & Iron for the use of your Department, and desire that you will procure five small fast sailing Vessels—three of which you will order to Baltimore and two to this place for the purpose of transporting this Flour and Iron to the Eastward—Two of these Cargoes will be wanted in New Hampshire, it may therefore be proper to direct the Agent at Portsmouth to send two Vessels from thence, more especially as probably vessels may be procured on better terms there than at Boston. If there are any vessels belonging to the Public that are suitable for this Service it will be best to employ them. Those that go to Baltimore must be addressed to William Smith Esqr. You will duely advise us of the sail-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

ing of these Vessels and their burthen. There now remains at Senepuxent of what was formerly purchased for your Department 180 barrels flour and 542 bars or about $7\frac{1}{2}$ Tons Iron. You will please to procure and send a proper fast sailing vessel to that place to transport the same to your port. We are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

P: S: We shall very shortly send you more money and most earnestly urge your sending an Account of your expenditures with all possible speed.

[TO HEWES, SMITH, AND ALLEN¹]

February 20th. 1779

Sirs

We are favoured with your letter of the 26th of December. We have determined to sell the Materials and Stores of the Continental Brig Independence which are under your care—The Cannon and their appurtenances—the Arms & Ships Bell mentioned in the Inventory we would have reserved for Public use, therefore you will not dispose of those articles but have them safely kept for our future Orders. All the other articles after giving timely and Public Notice you will please to sell at public sale, and furnish us with the Account sales as soon as compleated.

We are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

¹ A commercial house of Edenton, North Carolina, of which Joseph Hewes was the leading partner.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

February 21. 1779

Gentlemen

It is the request of the Marine Committee that the Providence Frigate be prepared for the Sea with all possible despatch and that she remain in readiness in the harbour of Boston with four Months provision, till their farther Orders.

The Committee have obtained a Warrant on the treasury, for five hundred thousand dollars for the use of your Department which will be forwarded to you immediately. We are Gentn

Your Hble servants

[TO WILLIAM SMITH, SAMUEL PURVIANCE, ARCHIBALD
BUCHANAN, JOHN McLURE, AND RICHARD CURSON¹]

February 23d 1779

Gentlemen

Your Letter of the 4th of February addressed to Congress was read the 12th and referred to the Marine Committee who have had it under their Consideration. They sympathize with you, in your losses, and are anxiously disposed to give you all the protection that can be expected from the Continental ships of war.

It gives us much concern that you should suppose

¹ A committee acting in behalf and by order of the merchants of Baltimore.

yourselves neglected by your friends. The great difficulty of manning the Ships, and the superiority of the enemy has prevented them from being of that extensive use which might be expected. Yet we trust when you are acquainted with the determinations of the Committee long before the receipt of your Letter, you will not suppose yourselves neglected or conceive greater attention has been paid to one part of the Continent than another. You must recollect that Captain Barry was some time ago ordered on the station of Chesapeake, but was unfortunately taken in his passage. Since that time the Deane has sailed and ought now to be on the Coast of Chesapeake. Every exertion has been made and is still making to equip the rest of the ships. The Queen of France we expect has Sailed before this time. The Ranger, Confederacy & Providence will soon follow them. The Baltimore of 12 Guns in this Port is ordered to be fitted out with the utmost despatch for the same purposes. They have very special Instructions and the main Object of their Cruize is the protection of the Southern Trade particularly that of the Delaware and Chesapeake. They are in the first place to sweep the Coast from the Southward of Cape May to the Bar of Charles Town and afterwards to continue in such Latitudes and longitudes as are best calculated to give the greatest protection to the Trade of Delaware & Chesapeake, and as often as circumstances and the safety of the Ships will admit of it, they are to enter the Mouths of the two Bays for the purpose of destroying the small armed Vessels that infest them. The Brig Baltimore in this port we have some apprehensions we shall be unable to man, Her Size you are well acquainted with

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

and is one of those Vessels which in your Opinion are best calculated to aid and protect your Trade. If you can Afford us any Assistance in manning this Ship, or can point out any other means in which we can co-operate with you, we are desirous of doing it. The Gallies of Maryland have been represented to us a[s] sufficiently formidable to repel the Privateers that come within the Bay. these are Vessels which we think ought to engage your attention. Every State has a Number of Armed Vessels for its own defence and upon application to the government of Maryland, which we recommend, we have no doubt but your laudable exertions will meet with their encouragement and Assistance; If that and the measures already adopted by the Committee should prove ineffectual and you can devise any further means we shall readily afford all the aid in our power.

We are Gentlemen

Your Obedt Servants

P: S: Since writing the foregoing letter we have advice that the Deane from bad weather, and sickness of her Crew had steered to the Southward.

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Gentlemen

February 28th. 1779

We send you by the bearer hereof Captain Ephm. Bill Five hundred Thousand Dollars agreeable to his receipt enclosed. This sum we expect will enable you to discharge the present demands on your Department

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

and will answer to give despatch in fitting for Sea all the Vessels that are now in Port. We have determined that the Sloop Providence shall Cruize on the Coast to the Southward. We request you will despatch her accordingly giving her Captain Similar orders to those you give to the Commanders of the Ranger—possibly that Ship and the Sloop may be got ready to sail in company. We are Sirs

Your Hble servants

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON]

Sir

March 2d. 1779

The Marine Committee have received your Letter of the 22d. Ulto and have ordered me to inform you, that you have their leave to go upon the service mentioned in your letter, considering yourself still amenable to be called to trial by Court Martial for the loss of the Virginia which will be as soon as possible after your return. I am Sir

Your Hble servant

JOHN BROWN Sec.

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Gentn

March 9th 1779

Above is a Copy of our letter of the 26th [21st?] ultimo.¹ We now desire that instead of the Frigate

¹ The letter referred to is doubtless that of February 21, printed above.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Providence, the Warren may be fitted out with all possible despatch.

We are Gentn.

Your Hble Servants

[TO JACKSON, TRACEY, AND TRACEY¹]

Gentlemen

March 10th. 1779

This Committee have very important public reasons for developing with great certainty and exactness, the origin, progress and designs of Captain Conyngham and the Cutter he commanded called the Revenge. By Captain Conyngham's narrative it appears to the Committee that many Prizes taken by him have been addressed to your House, in consequence of which the Committee request of you Gentlemen that you will send them by the next post after you receive this an account of what Prizes have arrived to your address from Captain Conyngham, and for what and how they have been disposed—And also a Copy of All the Instructions you may have received from any person what ever concerning such Prizes. The honorable mention that has been made of you Gentlemen to the Committee, induces me to believe that you will excuse the trouble that may arise from furnishing the particular account above desired, as the public service demands it.

I have the honor to be Gentlemen

Your very hble servant

RICHARD H: LEE Chairman

¹ Probably an American commercial house.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED¹]

March 12th 1779

Sir

I have the honor to inform your Excellency that upon a full consideration of the complicated affairs of the Cutter Revenge it has been thought proper and it is determined by Congress that the Vessel with her Guns, Apperal &c shall be sold at Public Auction and the Marine Committee has derected that the sale shall be made at the Coffee House in this City next Wedensday evening.

I have the Honor to be
Your Excellencys Hble servant
RICHD. HENRY LEE Chairman

[TO COLONEL WILLIAM AYLETT]

March 12th 1779

Sir

We request you will from Time, to Time furnish Messrs. Maxwell & Loyall Agents for building the Continental Frigates now on the stocks at Gosport in Virginia, with such Supplies of Provisions, Rum &c as they may require for the use of the Ship yard at that place.

We are Sir
Your Hble Servants

¹ President of Pennsylvania.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO MAXWELL AND LOYALL]

March 12th 1779

Gentlemen

We have received your letter of the 10th. of February and are now to inform you that we have ordered Colonel William Aylett Deputy Commissary of Purchases in your State, to furnish such Supplies of Provisions Rum &c as you may from time to time require for the use of the Ship yard at Gosport. We would have you be as Œconomical in your expenditures of every kind as possible at the same time to go on with Spirit in building the frigate which we have already given you orders to finish, and we shall from time to time supply you with sufficient Sums of money to compleat that work.

We have determined to allow all our Agents for building Continental Ships of war a Commission of five Per Cent on all monies paid by them for building or fitting the Ships which we doubt not will be considered a sufficient compensation for doing the business. We desire to hear from you frequently and to be informed minutely of your proceedings and are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

March 12th 1779

Gentlemen

We wrote you the 28th ultimo and enclosed Captain Ephram Bills receipt for five hundred Thousand Dollars for the use of your Board—we are since favoured with yours of the 22d feby.

Your reasons for charging an advance of 100 Per Cent on the Slops purchased in france are satisfactory and in future we desire that it may be a fixed principle in similar cases. We have a proper sense of the disadvantages which Captain Saltonstal[1] hath laboured under, as well as of his worth & merit, and shall consider his case very shortly.

We have not yet heard of the arrival of the Schooner General Arnold at Senepuxent—we approve of your purchasing another Schooner to proceed to Baltimore. We shall deliberate on the propriety of ordering a Brig to be built similar to the Hazard on Mr. Pecks plan and shall hereafter inform you of our determination. We have been applied to by Mr. Holker¹ Agent for the Marine of France respecting the Commission of 5 Per Cent which you charged on the amount of Supplies furnished the French Fleet, and are of opinion that a Commission of 2½ Per Cent would be an adequate compensation for doing that business.

¹ John Holker, consul for the port of Philadelphia.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

We observe that the Packet lately built is ready for the Sea and shall soon give Orders respecting her.

We are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

[TO WILLIAM SMITH]

March 12th. 1779

Sir

Your letter of the 27th Ultimo did not come to hand till yesterday, we are now to inform you that we are advised by a Letter of the 22d Ultimo from the Navy Board at Boston of their having despatched a Schooner called the General Arnold for Senepuxent to carry off the flour & Iron remaining at that place. We request therefore that you will on receipt of this immediately give Orders (should that Vessel have arrived) that the flour and Iron be shipped on board of her and that she be despatched back to Boston. But if she has not arrived we may conclude she has been taken and in that case you will order the flour & Iron to be sold to the inhabitants. Some time ago we ordered the Navy Board at Boston to send round to your address three small Vessels to be laded with flour & Iron for the use of the Navy in the Eastern Department. We now suppose that some of those Vessels will shortly make their appearance, therefore we have this day ordered the Commissary of Purchases to deliver to you at Baltimore from the Public Magazines any quantity of flour you may require for lading these Vessels not exceeding 1200

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Barrels which quantity we deem will be Sufficient. If hereafter it should prove otherwise you will please to advise us and we will give the Commissary fresh Orders.

We have also given Orders to the Quarter Master to direct his Deputy at your place to deliver to you ten Tons barr Iron which he had been formerly ordered by Congress to purchase for a particular purpose, but it has not been applied to that purpose—This Iron you will please to receive and Ship on board the Vessels with the flour and as soon as they are laded you will please to despatch them for Boston addressed to the Navy Board there to whom you will please to forward bills of lading and Invoices of the Cargoes with your Accounts of any disbursements you may make for the Vessels.

We shall chearfully allow you an adequate compensation for your trouble in doing this business & are Sir
Your very hble Servts

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

March 21st. 1779

Gentlemen

We have received your favours of the 26th february and 3d instant and now desire if the Ship Warren hath not already sailed, that you keep her in Port ready for the execution of our further Orders; But if she has sailed before this reaches your hands which from your

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

last letter we apprehend will be the case, then we entreat you to use your utmost diligence in preparing for the Sea the frigate Providence giving her four Months provisions agreeably to our Letter of the 21st. Ultimo, and we shall send you our Orders respecting her destination—It is of importance that you advise us of the time in which you think she will be manned. It is our desire that the frigate Trumbull should be got out, and we leave you to use your discretion as to the circumstances of Tides and danger from the enemy. We are
Gentn

Your hble servants

[TO COLONEL WILLIAM AYLETT]

March 26th 1779

Sir

On application being made to you by William Smith Esquire we desire you will deliver to him or to his Order at Baltimore or such place as he may direct 500 Barrels flour to be put on board the Schooner General Arnold for the use of the Navy in the Eastern Department. We also desire that you will make immediate Provision of the Bread and meat kind for five Continental Frigates and deliver the same when you shall be called upon by Messrs. Maxwell & Loyal[1] for that purpose and we recommend secrecy to you with all persons as to the use for which those provisions are intended. We are Sir

Your Hble Servants

[57]

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO MAXWELL AND LOYALL]

March 26th 1779

Gentlemen

As it is very probable that some of the Continental Ships of war will put into Chesapeake Bay for Provisions and their Commanders will call upon you for Supplies, in that case we desire you will without any delay apply to Colo. William Aylett Deputy Commissary of Purchases for what they may Stand in need of in the Provision way to whom we have given the necessary orders on that head. It is highly necessary that the Commissioners of the Navy Board at this place whom Congress have appointed to do the executive part of the Navy business in the Middle Department should be constantly & minutely informed of your proceedings in the public business you are carrying on, we desire that you will correspond with them in every thing relative to that business and that you will follow such directions as they may think proper to give you.

We are Gentlemen

Your very Hble servts

[TO WILLIAM SMITH]

March 26th. 1779

Sir

We are favoured with your letter of the 22d instant advising the arrival of the Schooner General Arnold

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Captain Obe at Senepuxent from Boston. We have this day written to William Aylett Esqr. Dy Commissary of Purchases in virginia to deliver to your order 500 Barrels flour at Baltimore for the purpose of lading this Schooner; and we send you enclosed an Order from the Commissary at this [place] upon the Deputy Commissarys in Maryland for the same quantity and for the same purpose least any difcultys should happen. We request you will immediately order the Schooner to take in the flour and Iron remaining at Senepuxent and proceed round to Chesapeake Bay to compleat her Cargo. We would prefer lading her with the most Southern flour but we wish you to pursue that plan which in your judgement will be productive of the most despatch.

We shall pay your drafts for any advances you make or will remit you money just as you may find convenient.

We are Sir

Your hble servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

March 26th. 1779

Gentlemen

Since our last of the 20th instant which went by Express we are favoured with yours of the 9th instant.

We had so favourable an Opinion of the plan which you had proposed to be executed by the ships lately gone to Sea that we have determined to pursue it. We

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

therefore desire that you will speedily as in your power fit out and despatch the frigate Boston with orders to sail to the Southward and join the other Vessels that have been sent to Cruize on the Southern Coasts, carrying your orders when she joins said vessel to proceed the whole in Company to execute the plan proposed by your Board in your letter of the 26th of February last with this variation, that instead of sending two ships to the West Indies that the whole be directed to Cruize in company so as to intercept Transports coming from Europe to New York. We observe that you do not mention the Confederacy—possibly she may not have sailed when this gets to hand—and that the Boston may be ready to proceed with her to the southward which would be a great security, should that be the case you will judge as you think best. We make no doubt but you have directed a proper system of Private Signals by which the Vessels may know each other.

We are Gentn

Your Hble Servants

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY¹]

March 26th 1779

Sir

At the time the Continental frigate Delaware was taken by the enemy, there was on board of her a negro man named Tom the property of Mr. William Hall of Port Penn in the State of Delaware. We are desirous of having this negro restored to his owner, and request

¹ Commissary-General of Prisoners.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

you will propose to the Commissary of Prisoners on the Part of the enemy that he be exchanged for a negro man now at this place the property of Captain Hawker taken with the crew of the British frigate Mermaid.

We are Sir

Your hble servants

[TO WILLIAM WEST¹]

March 26th 1779

Sir

I am favoured with your letter of the 20th instant, which has been laid before the Marine Committee who have ordered me to inform you that they dealing not in hard money, would be glad to know how much Continental Money you will take for the Rent of your Bank House after the present Contract is expired.

I am Sir

Yr hble Servant

JOHN BROWN Secr

[TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.²]

April 13th 1779

Sir

We request you will immediately after the receipt of this furnish us with all accounts relative to the Prizes

¹ Probably of Philadelphia.

² Continental agent at New London, Connecticut.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

put under your care and sold by you, which were taken by the Continental Brig Andrea Doria Nicholas Biddle esquire Commander.

We are Sir
Your very hble servants

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

April 15th 1779

Sir

We have received your letter of the 6th instant and are now to inform you that we know of no Resolve of Congress which interferes with the right of each State to direct the disposition of Prisoners of war taken by the Powers of each State in the manner they shall think proper, But we have no doubt, but that every State will furnish you with any Prisoners they may have in their own right more than will be necessary for exchanging their own people whenever you shall request the delivery of such prisoners for the fulfilling any engagements you have made for the exchange of Prisoners. And we recommend to you to make such requests in the name of this Committee Stateing your engagements and the reasons of them,

We are Sir
Your hble Servants

[62].

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING¹]

April 17th 1779

Sir

On receipt of this you are immediately to proceed to Sea unless invincible necessity should prevent you, and when clear of Montough point² you are then to open the enclosed Letter (and not til then) which will direct your future destination.

We are Sir

Yr hble Servants

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

April 17th 1779

Sir

You are directed to open this Letter when you are clear of Montough point. We now desire that you will proceed with all expedition to the Capes of Delaware which you are to enter and advise us immediately of your arrival there, when we will send you fresh Orders. When you get within sight of the light House of Cape Henlopen you will hoist a Pennant at your fore top mast head and a Jack at the main top mast head in order that you may [be] known from the Shore when they will send you a Pilot. When you get into the road

¹ Commander of the frigate Confederacy, at New London, Connecticut.

² Montauk Point, at the eastern extremity of Long Island.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

opposite Lewis Town send your boat a Shore to that place with a Letter to Mr. Henry Fisher and direct him to forward your despatches to this committee with all possible haste.

You will remain in the road until you receive our Orders unless some good reasons should induce you to run higher up the Bay, or you may have Opportunities of taking some of the enemies Privateers which may appear in that time about the Capes. We wish you success and are Sir

Your Hble servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

April 19th 1779

Gentlemen

Since our last of the 26th ultimo we are favoured with yours of the 24th of the same month.

Your design of sending a force to intercept the Hudson Bay Company Ships and perhaps to surprize and carry their factory meets our approbation—this Committee as well as your Board have had it often in contemplation; we therefore approve of the proposition made by the owner of a Privateer of twenty Guns, and agree that the Boston instead of the Providence, shall be join'd with her and sent on the expedition above mentioned. If you deem it necessary that the Ships should have a Tender, you may if you think proper, employ one of the Packets lately built, in that way, You will no doubt before the Sailing of these vessels draw up a plan

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

to direct their proceedings—To assist you in that plan, we enclose some hints respecting the expedition which probably may be serviceable. The Vessels we think should have their full complement of Marines, and we need not mention how much the success of the plan depends upon the secrecy with which it is conducted.

We again request your endeavours for the speedy manning of the Frigate Providence, she will be wanted very soon for an important business which we hope you will have her ready to execute— She should still have on board the quantity of Provisions we formerly Ordered. We are Gentn

Your Hble servants

P: S: enclosed are Coppies of Accounts of William Bingham's Esqr at Martinico for Disbursments of the frigate Deane Captain Nicholson and for the Brig Genl. Gates Capt. Waters which accounts we consider as being very extravagant, and desire that you will examine them and judge what articles were proper for the use of the Vessels, and such as you deem superflous you are to charge to the respective Accounts of the said Commanders & deduct from their pay on settlement.

[TO MAJOR HENRY FISHER¹]

April 21st. 1779

Sir

We expect one of the Continental frigates will shortly appear at the Capes of Delaware bound into the Bay

¹ Of Lewistown, Delaware.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

and in that case she will want a Pilot. She will shew a Signal by hoisting a Pennant at her foretopmast head and a jack at her main top mast head by which you will know her and we request that you will send her off a Pilot.

Should the Captain of this Frigate send you on Shore any despatches for this Committee we request you will immediately forward the same to this place by an express and we shall pay any expences that may arise—Your well known zeal for the Public cause induces us to apply to you on this occasion.

We are sir

Your Hble servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

April 24th 1779

Gentlemen

Since ours of the 19th instant we are favoured with yours of the 6th. As the frigate Providence will be wanted for a very Special and particular purpose we do not wish to run the hazard of her being out of the way when called for therefore we request that when she returns you will keep her in Port ready in every respect for the Sea.

We have lately purchased a Small vessel that will carry about 300 barrels flour and are now lading her with that article for the use of your Department.

We are Gentlemen

Your hble Servants

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

April 27th 1779

Gentlemen

Since ours of the 24th. instant we have not been favoured with any of yours, Captain J : B : Hopkins has informed us of the great success of the Continental ships in their late Cruize, which account was very pleasing and we hope 'ere this the Prizes are all Arrived. We request that you will prepare for the Sea with all possible expedition all the Continental Vessels of War that are now under your direction to go upon a Cruize of great utility to the Public and benefit to the Seamen and you will shortly receive our further Instructions concerning their destination. You are hereby directed to purchase the Prize Ship Jason of 20 Guns & the Prize Schooner Hibernia provided on Survey they are found to be suitable Vessels for the Navy. If they are purchased you will prepare them to sail with the other Vessels. We have had reason to beleive that the frigate Confederacy would have been ready and at sea some months ago, which not being the Case we desire you will inform yourselves immediately of the cause of her detention and as it is of great and immediate importance to the Public that she be immediately got to Sea, if in your Opinion that purpose will be more speedily effected by giving Captain Saltonstal[1] the command of her, we desire you will do so, and immediately thereafter cause a Court of Inquiry to examine into the

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

conduct of Captain Harding. We request you will send forward to us with all despatch properly adjusted compleat accounts of the Prizes taken by the frigate Deane on her late cruize. That vessel is now in this River and her Crew will expect to receive their share of Prize Money before they reenter therefore it is of much importance that we be speedily furnished with the necessary Papers to enable us to make distribution amongst them. Captain Nicholson writes to his Agent Mr. Mathias Brimmer to pay the proceeds into your hands, and you can draw upon us for the amount. We beg this business may be finished with all despatch.

The Number of Marine officers now in Commission we consider are more than is consistent with that œconomy which should be observed in all our public affairs—and as a new System is now forming for the regulation of the Navy Department, we do not desire to have any new officers of that kind appointed.

As the One twentieth part of Prize Money allotted for the commander in chief by the Regulations of Congress concerning the distribution of Prizes, was under the Idea of such an officer being at the head of the Fleet; but as at present there is no such officer, It is our determination that the said twentieth part be distributed amongst the Officers and Crews of the Ships at large, which you will please to make known to the Agents in your department. We shall shortly send you a supply of money and are Gentlemen

Your very hble servants

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO JOHN DESHON¹]

Sir

April 27th 1779

By a letter from your Board this day we are informed of your being now in Connecticut—We think proper to make you acquainted with a Paragraph of our letter of this day to your Board, and desire you will take such measures as you may think will tend to despatch the business to which it relates. “We have had reason to believe that the frigate Confederacy would have been ready and at Sea some months ago, which not being the case we desire you will inform yourselves immediately of the cause of her detention, and as it is of great and immediate importance to the Public that she be immediately got to Sea, if in your opinion that purpose will be more speedily effected by giving Captain Saltonstal[1] the Command of her, we desire you will do so, and immediately thereafter cause a Court of Inquiry to examine into the conduct of Captain Harding.”

We are Sir

Your very hble Servants

[TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER²]

Sir

April 27th 1779

On receipt of this we desire you will proceed with the frigate Boston round from Cheseapeake Bay into Dela-

¹ Connecticut member of the Navy Board of the Eastern Department.

² Commander of the frigate Boston.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE
ware Bay and immediately inform us of your arrival
with the Situation of your Ship.

We are Sir

Your Hble Servants

[TO MAXWELL AND LOYALL]

Gentlemen

April 27th 1779

Inclosed is a Letter for Captain Samuel Tucker of
the Continental frigate Boston which it is probable will
shortly appear in your Bay. We request you will take
measures to have this letter delivered to Captain Tucker
immediately upon his Arrival. We are Gentn

Your Hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE UNITED STATES
AT PARIS]

Sirs

April 27th. 1779

We have long expected that the Agents in France
would have furnished us with accounts of their Dis-
bursements for the Continental Ships of war and with
the Sales and distribution of Prizes taken by those Ships,
but are Still without them. It is now become highly
necessary that we should have these Accounts, therefore
we request Gentlemen that you will give Orders to the
Agents immediately to make them up fully and clearly
and send them to us as soon as possible as we have al-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

ready been much embarrassed for want of them. We also request that in future you will give strict orders that it be the constant practice of the Agents to furnish this Committee regularly with Duplicate or triplicate Accounts of their Disbursements for the Continental Vessels of war, Inventories of all Prizes taken—Accounts Sales corresponding with those Inventories & the distribution made of such Prizes.

The Ship Reprizal being unfortunately lost returning to America, we have frequent application made to us for pay & Prize Money by the representatives of her Crew which from the want of accounts we are unable to satisfy, the Cutter Revenge commanded by Captain Conyngham is arrived here, and is partly claimed by private persons, we are equally at a loss for want of her accounts and the many Prizes she took in the European Seas. When necessity obliges advances to be made to Navy Officers in France that are returning from captivity or otherways, we request you will order that we be regularly advised of all such advances.

We have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your very hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

April 30th 1779

Gentlemen

In our letter of the 27th instant which went by Post we directed you to purchase the Prize Ship Jason pro-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

vided on being Surveyed she was found to be a suitable [vessel] for our Navy. Should you purchase her it is our determination that you give the command to John Peck Rathbourne and we will send from this place a Lieutenant to go on board her. The Sloop we some time ago mentioned to be ladeing with flour for the use of your department will sail this day—the Navy Board will write you respecting her Cargo.

It is necessary to inform you that she has been purchased to carry this Flour—After her arrival you will dispose of her as you shall think will be most conducive to the Public Interest.

We are Gentlemen
Your hble servants

[TO CAPTAIN J. B. HOPKINS¹]

Sir

May 4th 1779

We have received your letter of the 18th ultimo relating to your great success in your late Cruize which has given us much pleasure, and your conduct with that of the other Commanders that were in Company with you has our intire approbation which we request you will communicate to them. We doubt not but you and they will use your utmost exertions in again preparing your vessel for the Sea and we have sanguine hopes from your Zeal and Activity that great Credit will result to our Navy from your proceedings.

We are sir
Your very hble servts.

¹ Commander of the frigate Warren, at Boston.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

May 4th 1779

Gentlemen

In our letter to you of the 27th ultimo we requested your Exertions in preparing for Sea with all possible expedition all the Continental Vessels of war under your direction, together with the Prize Ship Jason and Schooner Hibernia if they were purchased on public Account. We come now to communicate to you our plan for the employment of those vessels the execution of which we deem highly important to the United States & we doubt not on your part but every measure within your power will be taken that may tend to hasten the speedy accomplishment of it. It is our desire that the Confederacy, the Warren, the Queen of France, the Ranger, the Jason, the General Gates and Sloop Providence shall be joined together and Sail in Company to the Southward (and we shall take measures that the Frigate Deane shall join them afterwards) and there attack the enemys sea force on the Coast of Georgia, which from the accounts we have of that force may be easily subdued by ours collected, which will procure honor and advantage to the United States and much Interest to the Captors. To effect this valuable purpose great expedition and equal secrecy will be necessary—that the latter may be secured we propose that this plan shall not be communicated even to the Captains of the

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Ships, but Sealed Instructions given them not to be opened until they are at Sea.

You will direct them to call off the harbour of Charles Town and despatch a Tender to the Governor of South Carolina for intelligence of the Situation and force of the enemy—to request Pilots for the more Southern Coasts and such aid of armed Vessels as may be there ready to join them—That as little delay as possible take place at Charles Town, but that they proceed to take, burn, Sink and destroy as many of the enemies Armed vessels as possible, and haveing finished this business they are then to proceed and throw themselves in the way of the homeward bound West India Ships—Such farther Instructions as may occur to you as proper for the execution of this valuable business, you will please to give.

We propose that you should employ the Hibernia & two of the Packets lately built as Tenders to this fleet if in your judgment they are suitable for that purpose and they be Officered and Manned out of the fleet.

We are informed that Mr. Langdon at Portsmouth hath under his Care some small Cannon belonging to the Public which may be proper for Arming these Tenders. You will take such measures for joining the Confederacy with the Other Ships as you may think proper, and we request you will inform us by every opportunity of the progress you make in preparing the Fleet and when they will sail. The frigate Providence must still be reserved to execute such business as we shall hereafter direct. We request you will inform Lieutenant Simpson that it is our desire that he continue to command the Ranger and use his utmost diligence in

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

manning her and we should be glad of your opinion whether promoting Mr. Simpson to a Captaincy would be injurious to the service or not.

We are Gentlemen

Your very hble servts

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

May 20th 1779

Gentlemen

Since ours of the 4th instant we are favoured with yours of the 28th ultimo whereby we find there is reason to conclude that Captain Hopkins has violated his Orders by returning into Port when he should have continued to Cruize, and by not sending the Prizes he took into the nearest Port, and we find also that Captain Olney has acted contradictory to your Orders by Coming up to Boston when you had expressly required him to remain with his Ship in Nantasket road. We now direct that you immediately order a Court of Inquiry to inquire into the Conduct of those Two commanders during their late Cruize, and afterward if necessary a Court Martial. If you find the prosecution of that business will produce any delay in getting the Ships again to Sea, it is our desire that you suspend the said Commanders and put in others and in that case we recommend Captain Saltonstal[1] and Captain Rathbourne to be appointed in their room. We deem it highly necessary for the good of the service that the orders of your Board should be obeyed by all Officers of the Navy

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

under your direction and we desire that you will call Courts of enquiry to be held when it is your Opinion the good of the Service requires it on the conduct of such Officers as may disobey your Orders or in any other manner may misbehave. We highly disapprove of Captain Hopkins sending an Officer to this place with a Letter contrary to the Orders of your Board, which disobedience of Orders in this as well as in other instances were unknown to us when we wrote him a Letter of approbation; and we consider it very injurious to the service for the officers to get themselves appointed Agents for their Men as well as dishonorable to superior officers. Lieutenant Morran late of the Brigantine General Gates has arrived here in the Frigate *Dea* from Martinico where he was put on board that vessel under arrest by Captain Waters. We are unacquainted with the cause of his arrest, and therefore desire you will order Captain Waters to give in his charge with proper proofs, which please to send forward to us. The frigate *Confederacy* has arrived here and the Schoon *Hannah & Mary* which last vessel we have ordered to be laded and despatched back to your Port.

We have lately had sufficient reason to lay aside the expedition intended against the enemys force on the Coast of Georgia; and the service the frigate *Provident* was intended for is supplied by another Ship—therefore it is now our intention to place our collected Naval force in such a manner as to accomplish the double purpose of intercepting the enemies outward bound Transports for New York from Great Britain and Ireland and the homeward bound west India Ships, but If the *Providence & Ranger* should be ready for Sea mo

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

than a fortnight before the other Ships—that then you order those Ships to proceed to Cruize for the above purpose, marking out to them their Cruizing ground in such manner, as there may be the greatest possible certainty of being joined by the other Ships as soon as they shall be ready.

You will use all possible diligence in getting the other Ships ready least that the two that Sails first should be exposed to Danger before they are joined. We request you will keep us constantly advised of your proceedings

& are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

May 26th 1779

Gentlemen,

We have received your letters of the 12th & 13th instant and perfectly approve of your Conduct in Suspending Capt. Hopkins—in our last letter of the 20th instant we deem'd that as a necessary Step to be taken. We desire you will purchase the Prize Brigantine taken by Captain Hopkins and mentioned in yours of the 13th provided she is a Suitable vessel for a Cruiser. We shall pay due attention to what you say respecting the Resolves of Congress of the 6th May 1778.

Enclosed you will find Colo. Wheelocks receipt for 500,000 Dollrs which we have paid him here, to be delivered to your Board at Boston for the use of your

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Department. This Gentleman lives in New Hampshire and has undertaken the charge and delivery of this Money to you—three other Gentlemen travels in company with him and will form a proper eschort for it, and we have agreed to pay their reasonable travelling expences to Boston which you will please to comply with.

We are Gentlemen

Your Hble Servants

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

May 26th. 1779

Sir

I am ordered by the Marine Committee to desire that you will send up the Chaplin of your Ship to this place under a Gaurd so as to be brought before the Committee on friday evening next at six OClock. I am Sir

Yr. hble sert.

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO GEORGE WASHINGTON]

May 26th 1779

Sir

Your Excellencys Letter to this committee of the 25th instant together with an Extract from another of the 17th instant to the President of Congress has been duely considered by the Committee.

Unfortunately the situation of our frigates is such as to afford no reason to expect that they can possibly be

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

collected in season to execute the plan proposed.¹ The Providence of 32 Guns and the Ranger of 18 are already ordered on a Cruize and it is supposed must be at Sea before different orders can reach them at Boston.

The Warren of 36 Guns and the Queen of France of 20 have lately returned from a Cruize and are unmanned. Although the Naval force of the enemy at New York is at present trifling, yet as their situation in this respect is very fluctuating they may probably be so reinforced as to render it too hazardous to risque only the Two frigates in this River vizt. the Confederacy of 36 Guns & the Deane of 28 Guns the latter of which wants a great number of hands to make up her complement.

Add to this that though the force of the enemy on the water would be inferior to ours, yet might they not retire under cover of the Batteries on shore and receive effectual protection from any annoyance that could be attempted from the Guns of our small Ships. I am desired by the Committee to Assure you Sir that they shall always be ready with the greatest alacrity to employ our little fleet in the execution of such plans as may be suggested to them by your Excellency when our circumstances shall be such as to render it practicable.

I am yr. Excellencys

Obdt. Servt.

S: ADAMS Chn.

¹ A joint expedition of the French and American fleets against Canada and Newfoundland.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

June 2d. 1779

Sir

We have been informed that Captain Gustavus Conyngham late Commander of the Cutter Revenge which sailed from this Port now a Prisoner at New York is treated under pretence that he had Acted without Commission when early in the year 1777 he commanded a Small armed Vessel called the Surprise and in her captured the Harwich Packet in the British Channel.

The Enclosed Certificates from Silas Deane Esq and two other Gentlemen then in France under whose direction that vessel was fitted out and who are we acquainted with the whole transaction fully satisfy us that Captain Conyngham did not act without authority but that he was duly commissioned to command the vessel. Of this you will please to acquaint the British Commissary, and we request you will inform yourself in what manner Captain Conyngham is treated, which if you discover to be rigourously or with undue severity it is our desire that you inform the Commissary that retaliation will be made unless they change their conduct towards him.

We are Sir

Your Hble servants

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER]

June 2d. 1779

Sir

The Ship Boston which you command and the Frigate Confederacy Captain Harding being now ready for Sea, they are directed to Sail in Company with each other on a Cruise upon this Coast from the Latitude of Forty to thirty five degrees and to take, burn, sink or destroy as many of the enemys Ships or Vessels of every kind as may be in their power—The Prizes you will order into the nearest and safest Ports addressed to the Continental Agents in those Ports. And as this Committee have received authentic intelligence that a number of the enemys Privateers are Cruizing near the Latitude of 36, in expectation of falling in with a fleet of Merchant Vessels bound from the West Indies to the Ports of Philada. and Chesapeake Bay, it is their first object to frustrate the designs of the enemy by Capturing or destroying their Vessels and to afford every aid & assistance in their power to the inward bound Merchantmen, particularly the Brig Baltimore Capt. Read which is ladened with Continental stores & daily expected. They have also received information that the enemy at New York have sent out the Delaware of 24 Guns and the Galathea of 20 Guns to cruise upon this Coast—Your Attention will therefore be necessarily turned towards these two Ships, and we need not remind you how greatly it would redound to your reputation and the honor of the American flag to Capture or de-

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stroy these ships. You are to continue Cruizing for a space of three weeks from your Departure from the Capes of Delaware, after which time you are to return to the Capes and call at Mr. Henry Fisher at Lew Town near Cape Henlopen with whom will be lodged the further orders of this Committee.

As the Object of this Cruise is to take or destroy the enemys Privateers or small ships of war, and give every aid & assistance to the Merchantmen, the Committee direct you to confine yourself strictly to the Latitude above mentioned and to such Longitudes as are best calculated to answer that purpose. But if from circumstances it should happen that the Public service necessarily requires you to exceed those Limits then you are at liberty to do it. The Ship General Greene Captain Montgomery belonging to the State of Pennsylvania now in the Bay will have orders from His Excellency President Reed to act in conjunction with you during this Cruise. Captain Harding will be furnished with a Copy of these Instructions and will be directed to obey your Orders as senior officer. It is expected that before you put to Sea you will fix with him a proper System of Signals for the Ships under your command. The Confidence we repose in your Courage and good Conduct gives us every reason to hope for a successful Cruise—Both the ships of war and Privateers from New York are inferior to the force under your direction which will put in your power to aid the trade of the States and thereby not only render essential service to the Public but add greatly to your own reputation and the honor of the American flag. We wish you success & are sir

Your Hble servts.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

June 2d 1779

Sir

Annexed is a Copy of our Instructions of this date to Captain Samuel Tucker of the frigate Boston with whom you are directed to sail in Company for the purposes expressed in the said Instructions.

As you are the junior Officer you are to consider yourself as bound to Obey the Orders of Captain Tucker during this Cruize. We wish you Success & are sir

Your Hble servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

June 7th 1779

Gentlemen

Our last was of the 25th Ultimo by Captain John Weelock by whom we transmitted you 500,000 Dollars for the use of your department.

We are since favoured with yours of the 18th & 19th of the same month. The Timber provided for the 74 Gun Ship building in your harbour we would have you put in such a State as to prevent it from rotting until a better time presents for pursuing the work. This we think may be done without incurring any great Expence by having it properly piled and covered with Scantling. We observe what you say respecting the Packets lately

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

built and are pleased to find the Mercury so good a sailor, we desire you will hold Two of them in such State as to be ready to sail in four or five days after dispatches of Congress may reach your hands at same time we think it will not be necessary to keep them fully manned. At present we have no idea of building any more vessels shortly, but when in future it shall be determined to build any in your Department we will not be unmindful of your recommendation of Mr. Perkins.

As it is found that the Brigantine General Gates is unsuitable a vessel for a Cruizer, we desire you will send her to the best advantage reserving if you think proper her Guns and such of her materials as will be for Public benefit. We have already wrote you that Captain Saltonstall^[1] should command the Warren in room of Captain Hopkins, and as this Committee will never countenance any indecency of behaviour in the Officers to their Superiors—if Captain Perkins has transgressed in any manner that will subject him to a Court Martial it is our desire that you immediately Order a Court to be held upon him; and we make no doubt as you have hitherto supported your dignity, so you will always continue to do it. We take it for granted that you will suffer that lucky vessel the Sloop Providence to remain in Port, and we recommend to you the practice of always sending out the small vessels in company with large ones. We enclose herein two receipts for five hundred Dollars advanced by our Agent at Baltimore William Smith Esqr. to Captain John Perkins of Schooner Hazard for Paying Disbursements—the Vessel sailed the 2d. or 3d ultimo from Baltimore with 178 Barrels flour 6 Tons 18 t ^[?] 2 Qr bar Iron on board

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

addressed to Mr. John Langdon at Portsmouth for the use of your Department, and from intelligence since received we have reason to think she has been taken, and we find in the New York Paper that the General Arnold which sailed from Senepuxent with flour & Iron has been carried in there.

The Confederacy & Boston have already sailed to Cruize upon this Coast in quest of those Privateers that have so much infested our Trade. and we expect in a few days that the Deane will be able to follow them. We desire that you will give directions to the Commanders of the Ships of War in your Department to forbear the firing of their Cannon morning or evening or by way of salute within the Ports or harbours of these United States unless in return of a like compliment from a foreign Vessel or by Special Order of Congress.

We are Gentl

Your hble Servants

[TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL NICHOLSON]

June 12th 1779

Sir

The frigate Deane which you command being now ready for Sea, you are hereby directed to proceed with her on a Cruize on this coast from the Latitude of 40 to 35 degrees, and to take, burn, sink or destroy as many of the enemies Ships or vessels of every kind as may be in your power. The Prizes you will order into the nearest Ports addressed to the Continental Agents in those Ports. As we have received intelligence that a number

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

of the enemys Privateers is cruizing to the Southward near the Latitude of 36 in expectation of intercepting the Merchant vessels bound from the West Indies Chesapeake Bay and this Port, you are to use your endeavours to frustrate the Designs of our enemies, Capturing or destroying as many of those Privateers may be in your power and by Affording every aid and assistance to the inward bound vessels particularly the Brigantine Baltimore Captain Read which is loaded with Continental stores and dayly expected. As the Object of this Cruize is to take or destroy the enemy Privateers or small Ships of war and to give every aid and assistance to the Merchantmen, you are to confine yourself strictly to the Latitudes above and to such Longitudes as are best calculated to answer that purpose, but if from circumstances it should happen that the public service necessarily requires you to exceed those Limits, then you are at liberty to do it.

We have given Similar Orders to those now given to the Commanders of the Confederacy and Boston to whom we expect you will fall in with during your Cruize and in that case we Order you to join them and Cruize in Concert uniting with them your best endeavours to execute these Orders. We deliver you herewith Signals whereby they will be made known to you and which you are to display as occasion requires. You are to return by the first day of July next to the Capes Delaware where you will find our further orders lodged with Mr. Fisher at Lewis Town and should it happen that you do not meet the Confederacy and Boston during your Cruize you will in all probability find them there as they have been ordered to return to

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Capes at that time. When joined to those Ships you being the Senior Officer will have under your direction three fine frigates which we doubt not will be judiciously managed, and we recommend to you to cultivate strict harmony with the Commanders of those Ships as being essentially necessary for the Public good.

We are Sir

Your very hble Serts.

[TO COLONEL WILLIAM AYLETT]

June 21. 1779

Sir

We have received your letter dated the 7th instant. In the Course of a week or two we shall give you Instructions respecting the Bread which you purchased for the Frigates. In the mean time we request that you will inform us as to the quality of this Bread whether it is of the best kind or not—the quantity at each of the places where it is stored and in whose care it is. This information we shall expect by return of the Post and are Sir

Your very hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

June 21 : 1779

Gentlemen

Since our last of the 7th we are favoured with yours of the 29th ultimo and 3d instant. We are sorry that the

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

endeavours used to supply your Department with flo and Iron have proved so unsuccessful. The Schoon Harlequin which you mention, has had the misfortune to be sunk in the Delaware near to this place, and the Captain of her informs us that it will be a month before she is raised and fit to take in. The Petition which you mention in the Postscript of your first letter was signed by the Officers of the Warren only and not by those of the Queen of France or Ranger. Be assured we shall pay little regard to representations of that kind, but we leave Captain Hopkins's conduct to be properly investigated by men of impartial Judgment.

We have had William & John Hackets Petition under consideration and now desire that you will settle their Accounts for building the Alliance, and if it should be found necessary to do them justice, we agree that you allow them the sum of £2100.— Lawful Money which they represent to have lost by the Contract. And should you be of opinion that that sum is inadequate we request you will report to us what farther compensation will be proper to do complete justice to the said Builders. We enclose a Copy of a Letter addressed to Capt. John Barry at Port Au Prince in the Island of Hispaniola. We apprehend that Kerr the Person mentioned by the writer of that Letter was put in Prize Master of one of the Prizes taken by Captain Rathbourn in his late Cruise, which it seems he has carried to the West Indies and sold for his own account we send you this Copy in order that you make inquiry of Capt. Rathbourne respecting this affair and that you should be acquainted with Kerrs behaviour. We are Gentl

Your very hble Servants

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA]

June 25th. 1779

Sir

We have the honor to acquaint your Excellency by direction of Congress that the Minister Plenipotentiary of France hath appointed and commissioned Monsr. De Hilaire¹ to be Consul at the Port of Alexandria or Belhaven in your State. We have the honor to be

Your Excellencys

Obedt Servants

[TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL NICHOLSON²]

June 25th 1779

Sir

You are hereby directed to proceed in company with the Frigate Boston from the Capes of Delaware into Chesapeake Bay and on your arrival there, at Hampton, or any other way, endeavour to obtain the best intelligence if any of the enemies Ships of war or Privateers are in the Bay, and if you find there are and of such force as you are able to encounter you are to proceed up and attack them and after taking or destroying as many of the said Vessels as may be in your power—or should there not be any British vessels in the Bay, then without

¹ Sieur de St. Hilaire.

² Commander of the frigate Deane.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

any loss of time you are to sail out of it on a Cruise which you are to choose such stations as you think will be best to accomplish the double purpose of intercepting the enemies outward bound Transports for New York from Great Britain and Ireland, and the homeward bound West India Ships. We are of opinion that between the Latitudes of 36 and 41, and 100 Leagues the Eastward of the Island of Bermuda will be your best Cruizing ground, but in this we do not mean to restrict you, leaving you to exercise your own Judgment which probably may be assisted by information obtained in your Cruise. All Prizes which you make you are to send for the nearest or most convenient Ports in the States addressed to the Continental Agents. You are to continue Cruizing for the above purposes to the middle of September next or longer if your Provisions and other circumstances will admit of it, and afterward return to the Port of Boston where you must be governed by the Orders of the Navy Board of the Eastern Department. we have ordered the Continental frigates at the Eastward to Cruise for the same purposes you are now going on, and we think it very probable that you will fall in with them, In that case you or they or any of them are hereby directed to Cruise in Company under the command of the Senior officer and should you be joined by any of those frigates and find by any intelligence you may receive of the situation of the enemies Sea force at Bermuda that it will be advisable to make an attempt on their Shipping we recommend your undertaking it. By late Accounts from that Island the Virginia Frigate and a Privateer out of London mounting 20 nine Pounders were the only vessels

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

war then there. We now wish to draw your Attention to the execution of the business before you. The great Expence and difficulty that attends the fitting and manning of our Ships must make you and every Commander in our service fully sensible how much they Should exert themselves to employ them usefully while at Sea. This consideration we hope will have due weight in your mind, and will call forth such active and prudent behaviour as will be of Essential service to your Country, and add to your own reputation and the honor of our Flag. We wish you health & Success

and are Sir

Your hble servants

P: S: The Confederacy being designed for an other Service we have ordered her up here. Messrs. Bar-[r]ons at Hampton in Chesapeake Bay will be proper persons for you to enquire at respecting the enemies Shipping.

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

June 25th. 1779

Sir

The Confederacy of which you are Commander being designed for a particular service, you are hereby Ordered to proceed up Delaware Bay with her, as high as Chester where you are to Anchor and inform us of your being there. We are sir

Your hble servants

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL NICHOLSON]

July 2d. 1779

Sir

We have received your letter and one from Captain Tucker by which we are informed that three of the enemies Ships are now Cruizing for the purpose of falling in with you. Being apprehensive that those Ships will prove of Superior force we have sent Instructions to Captain Harding to continue with you ten days longer; and we flatter ourselves this will afford you sufficient strength to cope with the enemy. If you should be so fortunate as to take any or all of the enemys ships you will see them safe into port. If you should not meet with them in the course of Ten days, you will see the Confederacy within the Capes and then if your Ships are fit for the Cruise pointed out by your former Instructions you will immediately proceed upon it. You have enclosed a Copy of the Instructions given to the Ships that lately sailed from Boston whom if you can join, we hope will make so respectable a Squadron as to enable you to accomplish some thing honorable to yourselves and the American Flag. We are Sir

Your hble servants

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

July 2d. 1779

Sir

We have this moment received intelligence from good authority that three of the enemys Ships are Cruiz-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

ing off the Capes, and as we are apprehensive they will prove too Strong for the Deane and Boston, you are hereby directed to join those Two Ships with all possible dispatch and to continue with them for Ten days after which they will see you safe within the Capes, but in Case it should so happen that those Ships have Sailed so long before this comes to hand that you have not a probability of speedily joining them you will then proceed up the River agreeable to your former Instructions. We are Sir

Your Hble servants

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

July 5th 1779

Sir

We wrote you the 2d. Ultimo respecting Captain Gustavus Conyngham of the Revenge Cutter the receipt of which you have not yet acknowledged. We want to know if you have received that Letter and what you have done in consequence of it. We have been told that Captain Conyngham has lately been sent off from New York for England the truth of which we desire to know and request you will inform us. We have seen your letter of the 20th June respecting Mr. Nicholas Ogden—it is our desire that you offer him in Exchange for Mr. James Willing now a Prisoner at New York. We request you will write to us Shortly respecting Captain Conyngham. We are sir

Your hble servants

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

July 5th. 1779

Gentlemen

Since our last of the 21 June we have received your favours of the 10th. and 16th of the same. With regard to the Packets mentioned in your first letter we expect they will shortly be wanted to carry despatches and we have already given you some directions respecting them. We approve of your having purchased the Brigantine Diligence for the Public service and doubt not you will have her fitted with all expedition. In the instance you mention with regard to your bringing forward Lieutenant Brown to the command of the Diligence or the Sloop Providence we approve of it, altho' at present we are of opinion it might prove injurious to the service to bring forward Lieutenants in any general way to the exclusion of Captains in the service who are out of employ for want of Vessels. We are very much pleased to find that the Providence, Ranger and Queen of France were ready for the Sea, and approve of the Orders given to the Commanders of those Vessels—we hope the Warren will shortly follow them. As Congress are endeavouring to make such regulations in the finances as will make the wages and allowances for Subsistence of all Officers more adequate to the necessary Expence, it is thought inexpedient at this time to encrease the Subsistence allowed by the Resolution of

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Congress of the 25th. of July 1777. We expect to have
the case of the Ship Nancy Speedily determined & are
Gentlemen

Your hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

July 16th 1779

Gentlemen

We are favoured with yours of the 30th ultimo and
much approve of your cautious conduct with regard to
sending the Continental Vessels on the expedition to
Penobscot—which we consent to provided you are cer-
tain that the Sea force of the enemy is not superior.
This will be accompanied by Sundry despatches from
the Committee of Correspondence with which we re-
quest you will order one of the Packets to Sail imme-
diately agreeable to the directions of that Committee.
We are Gentn

Your hble servants

[TO COLONEL WILLIAM AYLETT]

July 25th 1779

Sir

We have received your favour of the 30th ultimo, and
now desire that the Bread you provided for the use of
the Frigates (or such part thereof as may not be wanted
for Public use) be disposed of to the best advantage.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

You will transmit to this Committee an account of the Sales as soon as compleated. And we are

Sir

Your hble Servants

[TO WILLIAM SMITH]

August 11th 1779

Sir

Your favour of the 31st. ultimo has come to hand—We observe what you say, that in consequence of our Orders, you have received at Sundry times upwards of 4000 Barrels flour from the different Commissarys in Maryland and virginia, a part of which belongs to Mr. Holker and a part you had delivered to the Issuing Commissary. We cannot find that we gave you any Orders for receiving flour for Mr. Holker—or for the Commissary.

On the 12th of March we ordered the Commissary at Baltimore to deliver to you from the Public Magazines any quantity of Flour you might require not exceeding 1200 Barrels and on the 26th. of the Same Month we advised you of our having written to William Aylett Commissary in Virginia to furnish 500 barrels for lading the Schooner General Arnold, but least he should fail we sent you an Order on the Commissarys in Maryland for the Same quantity. This we apprehend is all the Flour which we ordered into your care and as we wish to avoid mixing the business of the Navy with that of the Commissary or Mr. Holker, we request you will inform us what flour you have now got which properly

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

belongs to the Navy—estimate the expences which has attended the same and which for some time may accrue and we shall fully remit you. The Expences attending the flour for the use of the Commissary and Mr. Holker—they must pay.

We are Sir

Your hble servants

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

August 16th 1779

Sir

Enclosed is a list of Prisoners delivered to the British Consul at Corrunna by Captain Wingate Newman of the vengeance Privateer in October 1778. You will please to send a Copy of this List to the British Commissary at New York and demand in Exchange an equal Number of Prisoners of the Same quality as those specified therein. As this list is Authenticated by the Consul and is the Only one we have got, we would have you be careful not to let it out of your hands until an Exchange is made. We are Sir

Your hble Servts

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Philada. Augt. 17th 1779

Gentlemen

Since our last of the 16th ultimo we are favoured with yours of the 14th and 19th July and 5th Current.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

As it is the intention of Congress not to make any new Officers in the Navy until those already commissioned are put into employment, we wish to be furnished with a list of the names of such Officers as have resigned or been dismissed the service, also, such as are now Acting without Commissions with their qualifications and characters; and the Officers who are in private service, who when they are wanted for the public service should be called into it. It is our desire that you purchase for the Public Account the Prize brig mounting 12—12 pounders taken by Captain Talbot in his late Cruise should she be suitable for a Cruizer and not sold before this gets to your hands. We are glad to hear of the arrival of the Minister from the Court of France—and hope shortly to hear that the expedition to Penobscot will be successful. We are Gentl

Your Hble Servants

[TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED]

August 20th. 1779

Sir

Your Excellencys favour of yesterday with the enclosures is now before us. It gives us great concern to hear that a Spirit of insolence and outrage manifests itself in the Officers and men of the Continental Vessels, and your Excellency may rest assured that this Board will discountenance every attempt of the officers and men under their direction to treat the magistracy or any other persons in the execution of Office with insult and contempt. We find ourselves embarrassed with the par-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

ticular cases referred to in your Excellencys Letter; as, on the one hand, to pass a censure on these officers, without hearing them in their defence would be considered as an act of injustice; and having no authority to call before us any citizens of this State whereby we might lead to a partial decision on the other hand: We therefore hope that the civil power will effectually redress the injuries complained of, and, we trust prevent the like in future.

With much esteem and respect we are

Your Excellencys

Obedt hble servants

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

August 20th 1779

Sir

The enclosed Papers have been laid before us by the Agent of the Royal Marine of France by which it appears that the United States are indebted to the French Nation for a Number of Prisoners.

It is our desire that you examine those Papers with the Account you have kept of that business and ascertain exactly what number is due, and immediately discharge the balance by sending to the enemy a Sufficient number of Prisoners in the power of these States—receiving in return an equal number of French Subjects now in the power of the enemy; And it is also our desire that if you have in your possession more Marine Prisoners than are sufficient to redeem the Americans in the hands of the enemy, that with the Surplus an Exchange be made for

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

any French Prisoners that may be left with the enemy—
Or failing in that way if the British Commissary will
take your obligatory receipt for any number of the sub-
jects of his most Christian Majesty which he may now
send out and deliver to you, you may pass the same on
behalf of the United [States] to be paid as soon as it shall
be in your power. As the Minister of France is anxious
to have this business concluded we recommend that you
use all possible despatch in the execution of it. The
Commissary for French Prisoners is now going into
New York and in his way will call upon you, which
may probably tend to facilitate the business.

We request you will recur to our Instructions of the
14th of October last wherein we recommend that you
keep clear and distinct accounts of all expenditures at-
tending the french Prisoners to prevent any difficulty
hereafter in the settlement of them.

We are Sir

Your Hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

August 24th 1779

Gentlemen

Since our last of the 17th we are favoured with yours
of the 11th instant. We hope the agreeable news of the
Success of the Providence Queen of France and Ranger
will turn out to answer your expectations and we wait

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

anxiously to hear the event of the expedition to Penobscot.¹ We highly disapprove of the behaviour of the Lieutenants belonging to the Alliance in leaving that Vessel in a foreign Port, and we think they should be immediately suspended until their conduct can be properly investigated. Should you be of the same opinion from what information you can at present get, we desire that it may be done, and when the Alliance returns and you can obtain sufficient proofs respecting their conduct, to bring them before a Court Martial, and [if] it is your Opinion that the good of the service requires their being brought to trial, you will order a Court Martial for that purpose and transmit to us a Copy of the Proceedings.

We shall hereafter write to you respecting the Powder wanted for the use of your Department in the mean time We are

Gentlemen

Your very hble Servants

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

August 24th 1779

Sir

You are hereby directed to sail with Continental frigate Confederacy on a short cruize off the Capes of Delaware until the 5th of September next, chusing such

¹ A joint expedition undertaken by Massachusetts, New Hampshire and the Continental government.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Station as you shall think will be most likely to fall in with the Brigantine Eagle Captain John Ashmead belonging to the United States which is daily expected at this Port from the Island of St. Eustatia and has on board a Lading of much consequence to the public. Should you meet with this vessel you must convoy her into the Bay so far as you may judge she will be safe from Capture by the enemy and afterward Cruize until the time above mentioned when you are to put into the Bay and call upon Major Henry Fisher at Lewis Town with whom will be lodged our further orders for your government. The Navy Board will deliver you a set of Signals whereby the Eagle will be made known to you, to which please to attend & wishing you Success

We are Sir

Your Hble servants

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

August 31. 1779

Sir

As we understand that Captain Porterfield of the Ship Jason is in close confinement at Boston on Account of the enemys treatment of Captain Gustavus Conyng-ham, and as we have chosen Lieutenant Hele of the British Navy as a fitter person for that purpose and have him now confined at this place, we desire that you will give Orders that Captain Porterfield be treated in the same manner with the other Prisoners of war pro-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

vided his present rigourous treatment has been Ordered
in retaliation for Capt. Conyngham.

We are Sir

Your Hble Servts

[TO GOVERNOR THOMAS JOHNSTON]

August 31. 1779

Sir

We have the honor to enclose herewith a Copy of a Letter from Messrs. John Maxwell Nesbitt & Co. Merchants at this place respecting some cannon which we had from your State for the use of the Continental Brigantine Baltimore. As that vessel had been supplied with another set of Cannon and Messrs. Nesbitt & Co. were in want of those we had from you we lent them under the assurances given in the enclosed Copy of their letter.

We now beg the favour of your Excellency to inform us of the number of those Cannon and whether or not they are charged by your State to the United States.

We are yr Excellencys

Most hble servants

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

September 3d. 1779

Sir

Agreeable to our Instructions of the 24th ultimo we now send this by Express to Lewis Town to be delivered

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

you by Major Fisher, and you are hereby directed to proceed with the Confederacy to Chester where we expect you will remain but a few days.

We are Sir

Your Hble servts

[TO OKEY HOAGLANDT]

September 3d. 1779

Sir

By recommendation of the Delegates of the State of New Jersey Congress have appointed you Continental Agent in that State as by their Resolve of the 1st. instant which is enclosed. In that station it will fall to your share, to supply all Continental Cruizers or other Vessels in the Continental service, with Provisions Stores & necessarys to assist the Captains and Officers in whatever may be needful to advance them monies necessary for their supply, give them advice and in all things take care of the Interests of the United States. If any Prizes are sent into New Jersey by the Continental Cruizers you are to receive them, libel and prosecute them to condemnation—then make public sale of vessels cargoes and all effects that are condemned (unless ordered otherwise) and for your guidance we send you a Pamphlet containing the Rules and Regulations in these respects. You are duely to transmit to this Committee Inventories of All Prizes and their Cargoes taken by the Continental Vessels of war and sent into your State, and such parts of the Cargoes as we may order to be kept for the Public use, are not to be sold but valued

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

and reserved agreeable to our Orders. You are regularly to transmit to this Committee sales of all Prizes by you disposed of, which Sales are to correspond with the Inventories first taken, and hold the Proceeds ready to be paid agreeable to our Orders. All expences attending the Condemnation receiving and disposing of Prizes are to be deducted from the Sales before any distribution is made.

The Continental Sloop *Argo* commanded by Silas Talbot Esqr. has lately sent into Egg Harbour some Prizes which will come under your Direction. It is therefore our desire that you immediately repair to that place, and do what may be needful respecting the said Prizes. You will examine their Papers and determine by the Rules and Regulations of Congress what part of them belongs to the Public. We have had a schedule furnished us of the Cargo of One of those Prizes—She is a Brigantine called the *Chance* and has on board a lading of Provisions which is now much wanted for the Public use—We therefore desire that you will divide her Cargo if convenient, and reserve the Continental half of all the articles which compose the same for Public use, except the Bread and Oyle which may be sold. And if the share of the Captors is sold on reasonable terms, that you will purchase it for the Public. (except the above mentioned Articles of Bread & Oyle) and have the whole safely stored and kept for the further Orders of this Committee. You will please to advise us of your proceedings in this business and transmit us a particular Account of the Purchases which you make. We are sir

Your Hble servants

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Gentlemen

September 7th 1779

Since our last of the 24th ultimo we are favoured with yours of the 18th and — of the same Month.—It gave us much pleasure to hear that the frigate Trumbull had got out—we hope every endeavour will be used to have her fitted for the Sea as speedily as possible. As to the Cannon wanted for that Ship we leave it to you to procure them on the best terms you can and of the best kind hoping it may be speedily done to prevent any delay of the Ship on that account. We also leave it to your judgement to procure in the best manner, by importation or otherwise Powder and Cordage for the use of your Department—Observing that by the Packets which have lately been dispatched from your Port to France we have wrote for considerable quantities of Cordage, Guns and Ship Chandlerry for the use of our Navy, one half of which will be sent to your Port and the other to this place; but we consider it as being uncertain what time those Supplies may arrive. We should be glad to know the State of the Ship building at Middleton, and we have already wrote you respecting blank Commissions to which we refer. We earnestly desire that all possible dispatch may be used in getting again to Sea the Continental Ships lately returned and we hope that no endeavours on your part will be wanting for that purpose. We are so anxious on that Account that we cannot think of berthing the Ranger be-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

fore another Cruize is made—afterwards we shall write to you on that subject. If the State of Captain Whipples health is such as will not admit of his going out on the next Cruize we consent to his remaining on shore, and leave it to your discretion to supply his place by giving the command of the Providence for a Cruize to such officer as you may think proper. We shall write to the Commissary General of Prisoners respecting the conduct of his Deputy at your place. We are pleased to hear of the arrival of the Hannah & Molly and shall take measures to furnish the Pig Iron which you are in need of. We shall shortly consider Mr. Storeys case and in the mean time We are Gentlemen

Your very Hble Servants

[TO JOHN BRADFORD¹]

September 7th 1779

Sir

We are favoured with yours of the 26th. Ultimo covering a Schedule of the Cargoes of the Prizes taken by the Providence, Queen of France, and Ranger, on their late Cruize. We now desire that you will reserve the Continental share of the Rum and Sugar on board such of those Prizes as may come under your direction, for the Public use having it safely Stored & kept for the further orders of this Committee and transmitting to us a particular Invoice of the same.

We are Sir

Your very hble servants

¹ Continental agent at Boston.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO JOHN LANGDON¹]

September 7th 1779

Sir

Should any of the Prizes taken by the Continental Ships Providence, Queen of France, and Ranger on their late Cruize come under your direction, we desire that you will reserve the Continental share of the Rum and Sugar on board of them for the Public use having it stored and kept for the further Orders of this Committee, sending a particular Invoice of the same.

We are sir

Your very hble servants

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

September 7th 1779

Sir

The following paragraf is in a Letter lately received by this Committee from the Commissioners of the Continental Navy Board at Boston—"We are sorry to inform you that the Commissary of Prisoners department is under bad regulations in this Town—The Deputy Commissary Mr. Messereau, seldom here, his Deputy now gone to New York, in the flag General Gates, by order of his principal left his business with we hardly know whom, but a very improper person, that is incapable to make suitable disposition of the

¹ Continental agent at Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Prisoners that are landed out of the prizes to the Number of upwards of 200, we wish more attention was paid to this necessary business." We desire Sir that you will immediately pay proper Attention to the subject of the foregoing Paragrap

& are your hble servants

[TO OKEY HOAGLANDT]

September 7th 1779

Sir

We wrote you the 3d instant since which we have reasons for countermanding the Orders given in that letter respecting the purchase of the Prize Brigantine Chance's Cargo. It is now our desire that the whole of that vessels Cargo may be set up to sale, and no part of it reserved or purchased by you for the public Account except the Vinegar which you are to purchase let the price be what it will and send forward to this place.

We are sir

Your Hble servants

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

September 17th 1779

Sir

The Ship Confederacy under your command being destined to carry His Excellency the sr. Gerard Minister Plenipotentiary of his most Christian Majesty and his

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Suit to France, you are to receive them on board and immediately set Sail making the best of your way to any Port which the Minister may think proper to direct and on your passage you are carefully to avoid coming to action with any vessel of equal or superior force. Your Ship being entirely designed for the Accommodation of the Minister you are in all things as far as may be, to comply with his wishes and to treat him with the respect due to his character.

On your Arrival in France you are to forward to his Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esqr. Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of Versailles the Letter given you herewith together with a state of your Ship who will give you orders for your government, you are to apply to the American Agent in the Port at which you arrive for such necessarys as may be wanted and immediately proceed to give your Ship such repairs as may be needful fitting her again for the Sea with all possible dispatch. You are to take on board your Ship such Stores for the use of these States as may be offered by the Agents in France, so as not to incommode your vessel as a Ship of war and when you have received the Orders of our Minister you are immediately to make the best of your way back to this Port or into Chesapeake Bay, and if into the latter you are to inform us of your arrival. As it is probable that you and your officers will stand in need of some advances in France, we have requested our Minister to give Orders for that purpose and if necessary that your Crew have Clothing and a little Money in which we desire you will be very frugal.

Should you take any Prizes and Order them to france

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

they are to be put under the care of such persons as our Minister may direct, and such Prizes as you may order to these States are to be directed to the Continental Agent of the State in which they arrive—

If you can procure a Set of good 18 Pounders when in France and you are of opinion that the Confederacy can bear them, you are at liberty to mount them & put those you have now on Deck into your hold. We desire you will be careful of the Confederacy her Materials and Stores and that you will not delay any time unnecessarily in France but be diligent for dispatch. Wishing you health & Success We are sir

Your Hble Servants

P: S: We have agreed that Major Scull & Mr. Williamson shall take their passage in the Confederacy and that Mr. Clarkson an Acting Midshipman on board shall have leave to stay in France for his education.

[TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN]

September 17th 1779

Gentlemen

We have received the honor of yours of the 3d. June last to which we shall now reply. We are sorry for the trouble which you have had with the Conspirators belonging to the Alliance, and at this time can think of no better method of disposing of them than Sending them out to this Continent by different Vessels proportioning the number to each Vessel, so as not to render it

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

dangerous or inconvenient; and upon their Arrival if Sufficient evidence can be had it is our intention to bring them to trial by Court Martial. We are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have disposed of the Alliance, and have strong expectations that the little Squadron under Captain Jones will by their Success furnish Ample funds to repay all the Disbursments that have been made for that ship.

Although we are fully sensible of the perplexity which you have already had in transacting our Maritime business & of the impropriety of taking up your time from affairs of more general importance, when Consuls should be appointed at the several seaports & provided with funds for that purpose, yet the necessity we are now under of furnishing the sr. Gerard with a suitable ship to carry himself & family to France obliges us once more to trouble you by committing the direction of that ship to your care having at present no alternative—Assuring you that we shall use our endeavours to make it the last of the kind. This Ship is called the Confederacy mounts 36 Guns, commanded by Seth Harding Esqr. who we have Ordered, on his Arrival, to transmit you a state of his Ship, and to be governed in all things by your orders as you will perceive by the enclosure. We have in veiw that this Ship on her return should bring back as much Military Stores for the use of our Army as can be provided in time so as not to detain her or incommode her as a Ship of war which we request you will order Accordingly and despatch her as soon as possible. As it is probable that the Captain, Officers and Crew will stand in need of some Supplies of Cloathing and (as they have wages

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

due to them) a little money, we request that you will Order them advances to be made, but with a sparing hand. We have the honor to be

Your Excellencys

Very Hble servants

P: S: we have the pleasure to inform you that our frigates have lately had very great success, having among many other Captures, taken ten homeward bound Jamaica Men fully laden and two packets One Outward and the Other homeward bound—For particulars beg leave to refer you to the Papers.—

[TO OKEY HOAGLANDT]

September 18th 1779

Sir

We are favoured with yours of the 13th instant. As the Laws of your State will not admit of any division being made of the Prize brig. Chance's Cargo the whole must be sold, and it is our desire that you will attend the sales and make purchase of the articles which we have directed, provided they are good in kind, and are sold upon such terms as that they will afford the Expence of transportation to this place.

If any purchasing Commissary should be at the Sales you may leave the purchase to be made by him.—

We are sir

Your Hble servants

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

September 18th 1779

Gentlemen

We have received your favour of the 8th instant which came by Express and informs us of the arrival of the Deane & Boston frigates with their Prizes viz the Sandwich & Thorne Packets. If on full examination you find that those two Prizes are Suitable for the Public service as Cruizing Vessels we desire that they may be purchased for that purpose on the best terms you can, giving us the most early notice thereof and fitting them with all expedition for the Sea.

In answer to the other parts of your letter we deem it necessary to enclose you a Copy of what we wrote you the 7th instant least by any accident that letter should miscarry. We are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

P: S: We expect no time will be lost in fitting out the Deane & Boston and sending them to Cruize with the other Vessels.

[TO CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE]

September 19th. 1779

Sir

We are favoured with yours of the 29th August last and congratulate you on the success of your late Cruize.

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

As the Providence is again Ordered to be got ready for the Sea, we have no doubt but your best exertions will be used for the Speedy accomplishment of that desirable business. We are Sir

Your Hble Servants

[TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL NICHOLSON]

September 19th 1779

Sir

We are favoured with yours of the 3d instant from Falmouth giving an Account of the Success attending your late Cruize, on which we congratulate you. We are pleased to find that the Character you give of Mr. Yeaton comports of our opinion of his merit & your recommendation of him shall have due weight at a proper opportunity, but at present we cannot comply with your wishes as many of our Captains are out of actual service.

Having ordered the Deane to be again got ready for the sea, we doubt not your best exertions will be used for the Speedy accomplishment of that business.

We are sir

Your Hble servants

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON]

September 20th 1779

Sir

Having appointed you to command the Frigate Trumbull now at New London in the State of Con-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

necticut we desire that you will immediately repair to that place there to take the command of the said frigate and in your way call upon us at this place¹ for our further Instructions.

We are sir
Your Hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

September 21. 1779

Gentlemen

We shall very shortly want the Deane, Boston & Queen of France for a very important service for which reason we request that you will use every endeavour to have those Vessels fitted for the Sea with all possible dispatch and hold them ready to proceed Agreeable to the Orders which we shall transmit to you.

We are Gentn
Your Hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

September 22d. 1779

Gentlemen

We desire that you would order the Deane, Boston and Queen of France to proceed with all possible ex-

¹ Philadelphia.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

pedition to Charles Town in South Carolina. You are to supply them with three Months Provisions, but provided so large a supply is not readily to be procured, you are at least to supply them plentifully with what will be necessary for the voyage. Their Destination is to be kept a profound secret, therefore the Orders for this purpose are to be delivered by you in writing to the eldest Captain sealed up which are not to be Opened until the fleet get five Leagues to the southward of the Light House. The Enclosed Letter is to be sealed up in your Orders and opened at the same time your Orders are. We are Gentn

Your Hble servts

[TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE FLEET DESTINED
FOR SOUTH CAROLINA¹]

September 22d. 1779

Sir

You are hereby directed to pay Strict Obedience to the enclosed Resolution of Congress. "The Commanding Officer for the Time being means the Commanding Officer in the State of South Carolina." We are Sir

Your Hb Servants

"In Congress September 20th 1779
"Resolved that the Marine Committee be directed to
"give orders to the Commanding Officer of the Frigates
"or Ships of War going to South Carolina to Confer

¹ Captain Abraham Whipple.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

“and Co-operate with Major Genl Lincoln as the Commanding Officer for the time being until the farther Orders of the Marine Committee.

“Extract from the Minutes

“CHS. THOMSON Secr.”

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

September 28th 1779

Gentlemen

In our last of the 22d instant we ordered Three of the frigates to proceed as soon as possible to South Carolina. We have since received information that Count D’Estaing with 20 Ships of the Line, 6 frigates and a number of Transports having on board 5000 Land forces are arrived at Georgia and that the Count with his whole force may be shortly expected on your Coast, we therefore request that you have all the frigates and other Continental Armed Vessels immediately got ready for Sea with three Months Provisions on board and that they hold themselves in readiness to sail at a moments warning to join the French fleet or to such other place as may be directed by General Washington or the Count D’Estaing. You are to provide and engage a sufficient number of Skilful Pilots for the said fleet for Newfound Land, Hallifax, Rhode Island & Penobscot who are to go on board your Ships. You will observe that General Washington and the Count are to Cooperate with each Other and therefore Congress

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

have thought proper that the Captains of the Continental Ships and Armed Vessels should be subject to their Orders.

We are Gentn

Your Hble serts

[TO GEORGE WASHINGTON]

September 28th. 1779

Sir

The enclosed is a Copy of a Letter from this Committee to the Commissioners of the Navy Board at Boston, which we transmit as being necessary for yr. Excellencys information. We [have] the honor &c

Yr. Hble serts

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON]

October 6th 1779

Sir

As you have been appointed to command the Continental frigate Trumbull now at New London in the State of Connecticut, we desire you will immediately proceed to that place and there take the command of the said Frigate which you are to use your best endeavours to fit and man with all expedition. When you arrive there you are to inspect into the State of the Trumbull and give an account thereof to the Commissioners of the

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Navy Board at Boston who will order everything necessary for equipping her and you are occasionally to inform that Board of your proceedings and be governed by their orders in every matter which they may direct.

We are Sir

Your very Hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

October 6th 1779

Gentlemen

This will be forwarded to you from New London by Captain James Nicholson whom we have appointed to take the Command of the Ship Trumbull, and have referred him to the Orders he may receive from your Board in whatever relates to his Ship. We request that you will immediately give him the necessary Instructions on that head, and take measures to have the Trumbull speedily fitted for Sea. Your recommendation of Captain Hinman shall have due weight the first opportunity, but we could not appoint him to the command of this Ship without breaking a general rule which we had before adopted viz of paying regard to Seniority in our appointments where merit is equal and to the Ships which our Captains have had. Captain Nicholson has had a ship and so has Captain Hinman. but the former is the first Captain on the Navy List and we esteem him a Man of Merit, therefore he could not be passed by.

We are Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Gentlemen

October 12th. 1779

We wrote you the 6th instant by Captain James Nicholson whom we have appointed to Command the Trumbull, since which we are favoured with yours of the 23d ultimo. We have now to inform you that we have named the New ship Building at Middleton¹ the Bourbon and have given the command of her to Captain Thomas Read who will go from hence in a few days to superintend the fitting and manning of her—respecting which you will give him the necessary Orders and use your endeavours in getting ready that Ship as soon as possible.

We enclose you a Resolve of Congress of the 17th Ultimo appointing Colonel Silas Talbot a Captain in the Navy of the United States, and we have determined that should you purchase the Thorne he shall command her; we expect to hear shortly if you have purchased that vessel. The Ship Confederacy being destined for France and other opportunities from this place affording sufficient conveyances for the Public despatches, the Packets now at your port which have been kept for that purpose need not be longer detained but may be employed in importing Articles for the use of our Navy—You will please therefore to load them with Tobacco or such Other Articles as can be procured that will be suitable at the Bilbao Market and dispatch them for that

¹ Middletown, Connecticut.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Port, ordering back the returns in Rigging, Sail Cloth, Powder Lead & such other articles as are most wanted for your Department. Should it be necessary to provide Prison ships at Boston or Portsmouth in New Hampshire you are Authorized to do so, and to furnish the Commissary General of Prisoners or his Deputy with Cartel vessels when they are wanted.

We are Gentn

Your Hble Servts

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

Sir

October 17th 1779

In addition to our Instructions of the 17th Ultimo which has been delivered to you, we now direct that you will receive on Board the Confederacy His Excellency John Jay Esquire, his Secretary, and family, whom you are to treat with all the respect due to his Character and on your passage you are to consult with him and Mr. Gerard and be governed by their Orders with respect to any occurrences which may happen and the port to which you are to proceed. We are sir

Your Hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Gentn.

October 17th 1779

We desire you will consult with the Honorable John Adams Esquire respecting the Stores which are neces-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

sary for himself and family to France, which you are to provide and also such Accommodations as may be wanting on board the frigate in which he is to embark. We are

Gentn

Your Hble Servts

[TO CAPTAIN THOMAS READ]

Sir

October 21. 1779

As you have been appointed to command the Continental frigate Bourbon now at Middleton in the State of Connecticut we desire you will immediately proceed to that place and take the command of the said frigate which you are to use your best endeavours to have fitted for the Sea with all expedition. When you arrive at Middleton you are to inspect the State of the Bourbon and give an account thereof to the Commissioners of the Navy Board at Boston who will order every thing necessary for equipping her and you are occasionally to inform that Board of your proceedings and be governed by their orders in all matters relating to your Ship.

We are Sir

Your Hble Servants

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

Sir

October 26th 1779

The enclosed Papers have been laid before this Committee by two Gentlemen lately returned from captiv-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

ity at the Island of Antigua whereby you will find that Americans are treated there with great severity. We request you will immediately apply to the British Commissary at New York on the subject of Exchanging our People who are Prisoners at that Island and use your utmost endeavours for speedily Effecting the same.

We [are] Sir

Your Hble Servants

[TO CAPTAIN ELISHA HINMAN]

October 26th 1779

Sir

I am Ordered by the Honorable the Marine Commee to send you the enclosed Extract from their Minutes approving of the sentence of the Court Martial held for your trial.

I am Sir

Your Hble Servt

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO MAJOR HENRY LEE¹]

October 29th 1779

Sir

Captain Patrick Dennis being employed to wait the arrival of the Count D Estaings fleet off the Hook and being a Gentleman in whom we have the greatest confidence.

¹ "Light Horse Harry Lee," father of General Robert E. Lee.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

We request that you will afford him every assistance in your power to enable him to make the necessary Observations before the appearance of the fleet.

We are Sir

Your Hble servants

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

November 5th 1779

Sir

We have received your letter of the 26th ultimo and hereby authorize you to take such Order on the Subject thereof as you may think proper. The Postscript which relates to the Spanish Prisoners at New York we shall lay before Congress for their determination which we shall inform you of.

We are Sir

Your Hble servants

[TO WILLIAM SMITH]

November 5th. 1779

Sir

Congress having by their Resolution of the 29th ulto Ordered that the Marine Committee provide the Bearer hereof Major Weddersheim with a passage to Europe by the first Opportunity, and as no such Offers in this Port we therefore request that you would pro-

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

cure for this Gentleman a passage in any Vessel from Baltimore bound to France or Holland (in the Ship Buckskin if possible) if this can be effected you will furnish Major Weddersheim with a few necessary Stores for his Voyage and transmit the Cost to this Board who will immediately reimburse you.

We are Sir

Your Hble servants

[TO CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY]

November 6th 1779

Sir

As you have been appointed to Command a new Continental Ship that is now on the Stocks at Portsmouth in New Hampshire you are hereby directed to repair to that place and hasten as much as may be in your power the completing of that Ship which we are desirous to have done with all dispatch. We have now communicated our desire on that head to the Honble the Navy Board at Boston, on whom you will please to call in your way and receive such orders as they may think proper to give you.

Should Mr. Langdon & you agree that any alteration can be made in this Ship that will render her more suitable than the present design, you will please to communicate your plan and a state of the ship which we shall consider.

We are sir

Your Hble Servants

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Novemr 6th 1779

Gentn

Captain John Barry will deliver you this in his way to Portsmouth in New Hampshire where he goes to hasten the building and fitting of the New Ship on the Stocks at that place which we have appointed him to command & which we request you will push forward with all possible expedition.

We are Gentn.

Your Hble Servants

[TO GEORGE WASHINGTON]

November 10th. 1779

Sir

The change of circumstances to the Southward renders it indispensibly necessary that the three frigates formerly Ordered to South Carolina should now immediately proceed to that place. We have thought it proper that your Excellency should be acquainted with this matter.

We are with the highest respect

Your Excellencys

Most hble servts

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

November 10th. 1779

Gentlemen

You are hereby directed to use the most indefatigable endeavours to send to Sea immediately the three frigates formerly directed by this Committee to proceed for Charles Town in South Carolina—You are to give them the same Orders that was at that time directed to be given. The Salvation of that State in a great measure depends on these Vessels arriving there before the enemy can send any reinforcements. Under these circumstances we trust no time will be lost on your part in executing this business. We are Gentn

Your Hble servants

P: S: You are to give the following further orders to the Commanding Officer—that if he should find the Port of Charles Town blocked up on his Arrival there he is to return again to Boston with the Vessels under his Command.

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

November 17th 1779

Gentn.

It is become unnecessary any longer to retain the Pilots that you were directed to provide for the Count

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

D'Estaings fleet, therefore on receipt of this we desire they may be discharged.

We are Gentlemen
Your Hble Servts

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

November 17th 1779

Sir

Your letter of the 25th. ultimo addressed to the President of Congress having been referred to this Committee, we think proper to direct that you adhere strictly to the Orders already given you respecting the Sugar to be delivered to the State of New York.

We are sir
Your Hble Servants

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

November 20th 1779

Gentlemen

Congress having authorized this Committee to appoint Advocates for the Continent within the respective States, in consequence thereof we have appointed John Lowell Esquire Continental Advocate for Massachusetts Bay, and John Pickering Esquire for the State of New Hampshire who are to be employed in all Cases in which the Continent is concerned, with which you will

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

please to acquaint the Continental Agents in those States and direct them to act accordingly. We have appointed Captain George Jerry Osborne to command the Marines on board the New ship building at Portsmouth, conceiving that he may be useful in doing many matters relative to that Ship before there is Occasion for raising his men—of this please to acquaint him and also Captain Barry that he may be employed occasionally. We have directed Mr. Bradford the Agent to reserve 30 hhds Rum & 10 hhds Sugar for the use of the Navy which you will please to receive into your care.

We are sirs

Your Hbl serts

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

November 20th 1779

Sir

The enclosed Resolve of Congress was passed in consequence of your last letter to the Marine Committee whereby you are directed to supply the Spaniards on board the Prison ship at New York with Provisions keeping a Seperate Account thereof. I am ordered by the Committee to request that you will propose to exchange Mr. Thomas Bryer late Purser of the Hope Sloop of war in the Kings service a prisoner here, for Mr. Nathaniel Galt of this City who has been a long time in Captivity at New York, and whose family on that account are in distressed circumstances. The Committee from motives of humanity are anxious for his

OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

Exchange and have desired me to request that you will use your most speedy endeavours to effect it.

I am Sir

Your Hble servant

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY]

November 20th. 1779

Sir

Agreeable to your desire we have appointed Captain George Jerry Osborne to command the Marines on board your ship, but as it will be a considerable time before there is occasion to raise his men, we have been so early in his appointment on the principle of his being useful in doing matters relative to the Ship until that time, which you will please to Observe and employ him occasionally in such business as you may think proper.

We are sir

Yr hble servts

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

November 20th 1779

Sir

We desire you will deliver to the Order of the Committee of Congress for Superintending the Quarter Master & Commissarys Departments All the Rum & Sugar in your care belonging to the Continent, except

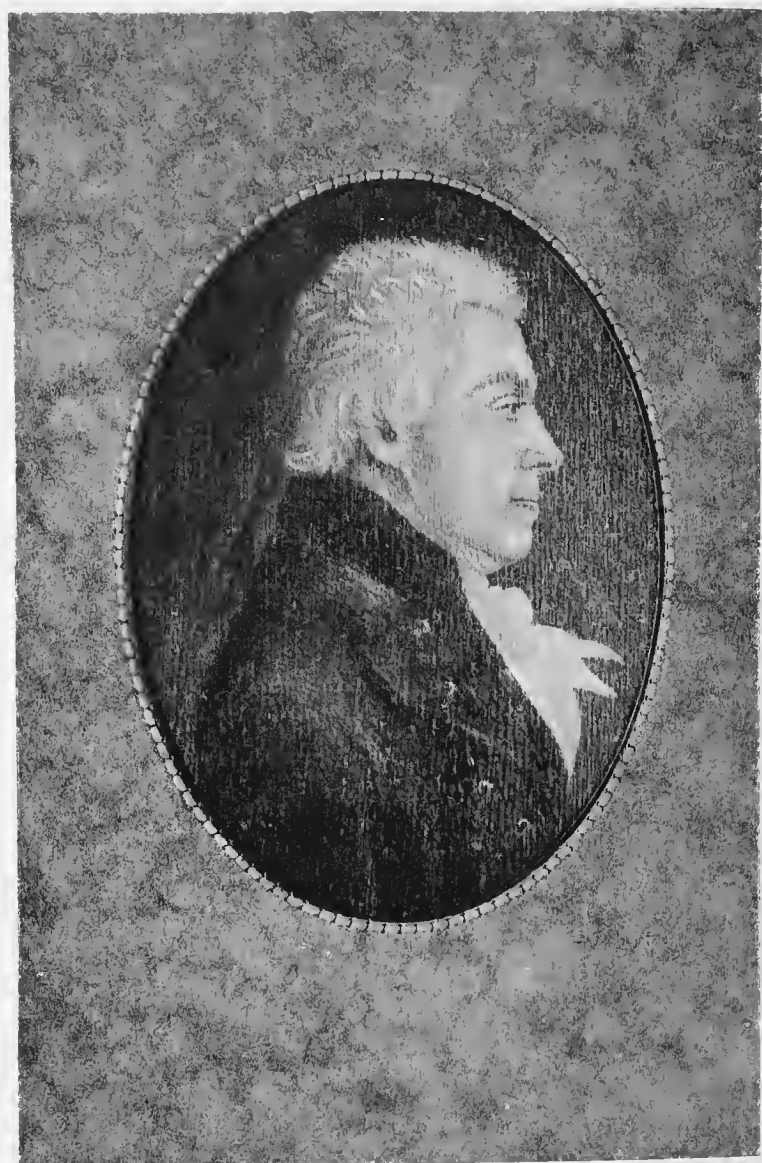
OUT-LETTERS OF THE MARINE COMMITTEE

30 hhds Rum & 10 hhds Sugar which are reserved for the use of the Navy and which you are to deliver to the Honble the Commissioners of the Navy Board.

We are sir

Yr hble servts

OUT-LETTERS OF
THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY



աղօրծ զմեզ

Անձն անհայտն զմեզնիս անի քո քրտնաշէտ
քրտնաշէտ քո հոգեւ

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Philadelphia Decem. 10th 1779

Gentlemen

Congress having dissolved their Marine Committee did by A Resolve bearing date the 28th of October¹ a Copy of which we now enclose to you, Constitute a Board of Admiralty and appointed three Commissioners not members of Congress, together with two members of Congress and a Secretary to whose management all affairs relative to the Continental Navy, are committed, subject nevertheless to the controul of Congress.

Pursuant thereto it is the request of this Board that in future all letters and applications relative to the Navy be addressed to the Commissioners of the Admiralty of the United States.

Among other Instructions this Board is directed immediately to write to the several Navy Boards urging

¹ See the Journals of the Continental Congress for October 28, 1779. The Board of Admiralty was organized by Francis Lewis of New York, James Forbes of Maryland, and William Ellery of Rhode Island, the first three members to serve on the board.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

them to transmit accurate accounts up to the 31st. of this Month of all transactions relative to the Navy within their respective districts, to which a due regard is expected.

We observe by your letter of the 18th ultimo that you had procured Tobacco sufficient to load one of the Packets and part of the other, we rely on your diligence in giving them all possible despatch.—

It is not at present in the power of this Board to furnish you with Supplies of the Bread kind, occasioned by the large Supplies for the Army and Count DEstaings fleet for these reasons the Schooner mentioned in your last is sent to Boston with a Cargo of Tar &c.

As to the Continental Armed Vessels still remaining at Boston you are hereby Authorized and directed to send them out on a cruize in such Latitudes as you may think will be most likely to annoy the enemy by Captures. You are directed Strictly to enjoin all Commanders of Continental Vessels of war who shall hereafter be so fortunate as to make captures from the enemy, that they send their Prizes into such of our Ports as may be nearest to the places of such Capture. And whereas you have been heretofore authorized by the Marine Committee to examine and adjust the accounts of the Continental Agents within your District, you are hereby directed to transmit all such accounts to this Board for the commissioners revisal. The Proceedings of the Court Martial on the trial of Captain Dudley Saltonstal[1] is not yet come to hand altho by your letter of the 28th of October last you gave reason to ex-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

pect them, pray let them be forwarded to us and furnish him with a Copy if required. I am Gentl

Your very Hble Servt.

By Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

Admiralty Board Decem. 10th 1779

Sir

Congress having dissolved their Marine Committee did by a Resolve bearing date the 28th of October last, constitute a Board of Admiralty and appointed three Commissioners not members of Congress, two Members of Congress, and a Secretary to whose management all Affairs relative to the Continental Navy is committed subject nevertheless to the controul of Congress—Pursuant thereto it is the request of this Board that in future all letters and applications relative to the Navy be addressed to the Commissioners of the Admiralty of the United States.

Among other Instructions this Board is directed immediately to write to the several Continental Agents urging them to transmit Accurate Accounts up to the 31st. of this Month of all transactions relative to the Navy within their respective districts to which a due regard is expected. You will in particular immediately inform us as nearly as possible what balances are in your hands in Order that drafts may be made on you therefor, the Treasury being nearly exhausted and it being

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

out of the power of Congress to preserve their resolution not to emit any more money unless they collect monies from every quarter where they are due & may be had.

#From the Sales you have made of large quantities of Sugar & Rum &c. Congress rationally suppose you have a very considerable sum in your hands belonging to the United States.

We are Sir

Your Hble Servants

By Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

#N:B: The Above letter was circular (excepting the last paragraph) to the following Agents

John Langdon Esqr....	New Hampshire	}
Nathl. Shaw Esqr.....	Connecticut	
Danl Tillinghast.....	Rhode Island	

[TO JOHN DESHON]

Board of Admiralty 18th Decemr. 1779

Sir

Pursuant to your request received by Mr. Root, you have enclosed an Order from the Board of war directed to Colo. Stevens of the Artillery for delivery of the Powder and other Stores under his direction. You have also a letter for Governor Trumbull open for your perusal, which you will Seal and deliver to him—

In regard to a new sett of Cannon for the Trumbull, this Board consents to the Navy Boards entering into

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

a Contract with the proprietors of the Hope Furnace upon the terms proposed provided the balance demanded by them on a former Account be submitted to the decision of three Arbitrators indifferently chosen by the parties but not otherwise. You are also directed to inform this Board from what causes the Cannon already provided for the Trumbull and now deemed unfit for the Service—these consequences do proceed—Surely if they are now unfit they were so when purchased and ought not to be paid for. Whatever Powder or Naval Stores you receive by virtue of the enclosed applications, you are to return an account of the particulars to this Board.

By Order Sir yrs &c
F: LEWIS Chairman

[TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL]

Sir

Decemr. 18th 1779

John Deshon Esqr. a Commissioner of the Navy Board of the Eastern department having applied to this Board for an additional supply of two Tons powder for furnishing the Two frigates Trumbull & Bourbon now at New London—this application was by Congress referred to the Board of war from whence we received the following answer. “We recollect that General Washington at the time Count D’Estaing was expected applied to the Governor of Connecticut for Powder and was promised about 15 Tons, the Count not coming we suppose this supply was never drawn from the Connecticut Magazines—we have no doubt you may easily obtain

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY
from Governor Trumbull the Two Tons you want.”
Should it be convenient for your Excellency to comply
with this request it will greatly facilitate the sending
those frigates to sea. We have the Honor to be &c

Yr Exys. Obt. Servts
By Order F: LEWIS Chn.

[TO WILLIAM SMITH]

December 20th 1779

Sir

Your letter of the 20th Ultimo addressed to the Marine Committee is now before this Board—Congress had directed that Committee to furnish Major Weddershiem with a passage to Europe & a few necessary Sea Stores but they had no authority to go any further: However we do suppose from the necessity of the case, if you have paid his Board that it will be admitted. Congress had also directed that a passage to France should be engaged for the Baron De Bonstetter and his servant who are now at Baltimore—we request that you will procure a passage for him and his servant by the Ship Buckskin, or should she have sailed by the next opportunity. The Marine Committee being dissolved you will please in future to correspond with this Board on such matters as you have done by direction of that Committee and on any other affairs relative to the Navy which may come under your direction.

I am Sir

Your very Hble Servt.

By Order JOHN BROWN Secy

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO JOHN LANGDON]

December 20th. 1779

Sir

Your Letter of the 27th ultimo by Captain Barry to the Marine Committee is now before this Board who are preparing to lay the business to which it relates before Congress, for their determination which shall be transmitted to you by the next Post.

By Order I am Sir yrs &c

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Decemr. 20th. 1779

Gentlemen

Your letter of the 4th instant addressed to the Marine Committee is now before this Board who are preparing to lay the business to which it relates before Congress, and shall transmit you their determination by the next post. The Board have lately transmitted an Order for Gunpowder to Mr. Deshon of your Board now in Connecticut for the use of the Trumbull &c. Captain Barry makes mention of a quantity of bar Iron which was on board the Trumbull which Mr. Cotton the builder informed him had been lent to the state of Connecticut—no doubt you are acquainted with that matter,

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY
and as you are in want of that article for the ship at
Portsmouth will apply for it. We are Gentn

Your Hble Servts.
By Order JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO JOHN DESHON]

Sir Decem. 20th. 1779

The Board is concerned at your sending Mr. Root
express with a letter, [which] as to its import might
answer the same purposes if sent by the Post by which
a considerable expence might be saved—Pray avoid
this mode in future unless some urgent occasion requires
it. Mr. Root has received 700 Dollars to defray his
Expences he is to account with you for the same.

I am Sir
By Order yrs &c
JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO COLONEL RICHARD WESTCOTT¹]

Sir Decemr. 20th. 1779

Mr. Donaldson this morning informed the Board
with the Situation of the Madeira Wine saved out of the
Ship stranded on the Jersey Shore and now under your
care. As soon as the said Wine is conveyed up to places
of Safety, we request you will procure Teams to send it
on by Land to Coopers Ferry under the care of some

¹ Of Egg Harbor, New Jersey.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

trusty Person or Persons who may prevent its being embezzled on the road. There is also three Parcels of Codfish in Captain Brecks care, One for the Marine Committee, One for Mr. James Searle, and One for Mr. Francis Lewis, which we also desire may be sent up with the Wine. Placing our implicit confidence in your exertions. We are sir

Your Hble servts
F LEWIS Chn.

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

Decemr. 28th. 1779

Sir

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant and in answer thereto am directed by the Board to inform you that the State of New York declines the offer of purchasing any of the Sugar &c. in your hands, therefore you are directed to take the last order for your guide viz. to deliver to the Order of the Committee of Congress on the Quarter Master & Commissarys Departments all the Rum & Sugar in your care. You are further directed by the Board immediately to furnish them with an Account of what Public Money you have in hand arising from the Sale of Prizes, as also your general Account as soon as possible, for without such Accounts regularly transmitted it will be impossible for this Board to transact the business of the Marine with Accuracy. I am Sir

Your Hble Sert
JOHN BROWN Secy

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO JOHN LANGDON]

Decemr. 28th. 1779

Sir

In answer to your letter of the 27th ultimo by Captain John Barry, I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that the 74 gun Ship now building at Portsmouth under your superintendence be compleated pursuant to the plan first directed by Congress viz 74 Guns with a fore Castle and quarter Deck, but the great difficulty lies in the mode of furnishing you with a fund sufficient for carrying on this work. The Continental Treasury is so nearly exhausted that it will be impossible to furnish you from hence till monies are brought in by taxes and Loans which are Slow in collecting. Indeed the Board at Present can point out no other resources but what must arise from the Continental Agents at Boston & New Hampshire who must have considerable sums in their hands from the Sales of many valuable Prizes carried into their Ports, but as this Board has not been furnished with accurate accounts of monies in the Agents hands, they cannot determine with percision upon a fund for your supply. They have sent preptory orders to their Agents & the Navy Board for their general Accounts but particularly for an immediate Account of what monies are at present in their hands to which you will please pay a due regard. You are further directed by the Board to transmit them a Schedule of All the necessary materials that may henceforward be wanted for compleating the Ship, with

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

an estimate as near as possible of the Cost of each article the artificers pay included. The Canvas, Cordage, Ship Chandlery, Cannon and other Military Stores have been long since ordered from France and may be soon expected. The Board are surprized at your saying that 40 Tons of Iron will be still wanting. If so you must endeavour to procure it from the eastern States as none can at present be sent from hence. They coincide with you in Opinion that the ship should be properly gaurded whilst on the Stocks but then it should be so conducted as to make the Gaurd useful in working at the ship. Captain Barry will receive directions on this head. I am Sir

Your hble servant

By Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Decemr. 28th 1779

Gentlemen

Your letter of the 4th instant by Captain Barry has been received and laid before Congress for their sentiments thereon, pursuant thereto the Board resolved that the 74 gun ship now building at Portsmouth under the superintendence of Mr. Langdon be compleated agreeable to the plan first directed by Congress viz to carry 74 guns with a quarter Deck and fore Castle. Enclosed you have the superintendants orders accordingly which you will peruse, Seal and forward to him.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

I am directed by the Board to a repetition of their request of the 10th of December to which is now added that you would immediately transmit an account of what monies may be now in your hands, as also in the hands of Mr. Bradford, Continental Agent; for upon these funds alone must at present depend the supplies for carrying on the Ship at Portsmouth.

The Continental Treasury is so nearly exhausted that it will be impossible to furnish you from hence until monies are brought in by taxes and Loans which are slow in collecting; and for the regular carrying on the business of the Navy in future it will be absolutely necessary that this Board be furnished with both regular Accounts & estimates from your Navy Department. I am Gentl

Your hble Servant

By Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE¹]

Sir

Decemr. 31. 1779

The Board of Admiralty beg leave to lay before your Excellency the Inclosed papers relative to the Capture of a Schooner called the Daphne with her Cargo, by Captain Robinson, late commander of the Continental sloop of war called the Fly, who by his Protest sets forth, that he was dispossessed of said Schooner and Cargo by His Excellency the Count DEstaing on the coast of

¹ French minister to the United States, residing at Philadelphia.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Georgia, and to which Captain Robinson his Docter & Pilot support a Claim by virtue of a resolution of Congress dated the 14th October 1777. It may be necessary to inform your Excellly that the Sloop Fly was employed to carry the Honble Mr. Holker to the Capes of Delaware. I am yr Excellcys Obedt. Servt.

per Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

Sir

January 7th 1780

The Board have directed that you immediately sell to the best advantage the Cotton, Pimento, Logwood, Fustick and Ginger in your possession which belongs to the Public except reserving 1000 lbs. weight of the Ginger for the use of the Army and Navy and also the Lignumvitæ and Mahogany for the use of the Navy which you are to deliver to the Commissioners of the Navy Board. In due time the Board will Expect to be furnished with an Account Sales. I am sir

Your Hble servt

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE TREASURY BOARD]

Gentlemen

7th Jany 1780

By the enclosed application from the Navy Board you will perceive that, without a Supply of money the

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

business of the department will be intirely at a Stand. This Board therefore request you will report to Congress that a Warrant issue for as much Money as may at this juncture be convenient for the Treasury to Spare, but not less than one hundred Thousand Dollars will be sufficient.

We are Gentn

Yr Hble servts

F LEWIS Chn.

[TO CAPTAIN SILAS TALBÔT¹]

January 25th 1780

Sir

Your letter of the 11th of November last with its enclosure has been laid before Congress and by them referred to this Board, who have by a Strict enquiry endeavoured to find out the three Brigantines who dispossessed you of your Prize the Betsey, but as several Vessels Sailed from this Port together on or about the 1st. of September it is hitherto difficult to ascertain those three identical Brigs—The Board is furnished with strong presumptions relative to one of them not yet returned from St. Eustatia—the Captain of that Brig is now here, but apprehensive of the consequences, he and the concerned, endeavour to suppress information, nor can such at present be obtained sufficient to commence a Suit. The Board conceive that the most speedy way of getting that information will be from some of your own

¹ Commander of the Continental sloop Argo.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

People who were on board the Prize, who as they belong to the Eastern States will naturally return there, therefore it is recommended that you use your endeavours to find out some of those People, and take their evidence of the facts in a proper manner—On proper proofs being obtained, the Board have no doubt but that damages will be got from the Delinquents, and measures will be taken in this quarter to Obtain these proofs if possible—Should you be successful in your researches for the same purpose, you will not fail to transmit any information you may obtain to this Board who will act in the Premises as may be needfull.

I am Sir &c

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO JOHN MURRAY¹]

Sir

January 25th. 1780

Your Letter of the 18th Decemr. last directed to the Marine Committee (which is dissolved) is now before this Board and I am Ordered to transmit you two Resolutions of that Committee of the 21 April & 29th June last as necessary for your government in the Subject to which your letter relates.

You will please to Observe that Captain J: B: Hopkins was served with a Copy of the latter Resolution, or at least it was sent to him by Post, being passed in consequence of a letter which he wrote dated the 16th. June last in behalf of himself and the Captains of the fleet in

¹ This letter was addressed to Murray at Providence, Rhode Island.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY
their late Cruize claiming the $\frac{1}{20}$ th part of Prizes allotted to the Commander in Chief.

I am Sir &c By Order
JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO JACOBUS VAN ZANDT¹]

Sir January 25th. 1780

Your letter of the 18th ultimo is now before this Board who wish to know in what Quarter Master &c Department the Iron and other Articles under the care of Captain Samuel Tudor are wanted that they may be Ordered accordingly.

Annexed you have a return of the several Stores in Captain Tudors care,—the eighteen Compasses will be wanted for the Trumbull & Bourbon two new frigates now at New London, would therefore have them sent to the care of Nathl Shaw junr Esquire Continental Agent at that Port—The Nine Barrels of Pearl Ash should be sent on to the Commercial Committee of Congress in this City.

I am Sir &c By Order
JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Gentlemen

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a Resolve of Congress passed the 25th. instant relative

¹ Continental agent for the State of New York.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

to the officers of the Continental Navy not in actual service and to which a due regard is expected. The Board is dayly in expectation of an answer to their Letters of the 10th ultimo, which they imagine has been hitherto delayed by the inclemency of the weather. I am also directed to repeat the necessity of their being Speedily furnished with the accounts of your Department. Captain Saltonstal[1] informed the Board that you had lately received the Model of a vessel built in Holland upon a New Construction—they wish you to send it here when convenient.

I am Gentlemen yrs &c By Order
JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE BOARD OF WAR]

Gentlemen January 31. 1780

I am directed by the Board of Admiralty to inform you that Captain John Barry being now at this Place on Public service, it is their request that his Horses be permitted to be kept at the Continental Stables.

I have the Honor &c
JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO JACOBUS VAN ZANDT]

Sir January 31. 1780

In answer to your letter of the 18th Decemr. the Board wrote you the 25th. instant, since which time the

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Board find that several of the Stores &c particularly the Iron in the case of Captain Samuel Tudor on Hudsons River will be wanted for the use of the Continental Frigate Bourbon now building in the State of Connecticut. It is therefore the desire of the Board that you do not give Orders for the disposal of any of those Stores until it is known what part of them will be necessary for the above mentioned Frigate.

I am Sir

Your Hble servt.

J BROWN Secy

[TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL NICHOLSON]

January 31. 1780

Sir

By a letter received from the Navy Board of the Eastern Department, dated the 20th. Decemr. last, this Board are informed of the difficulty of procuring a full supply of Bread, in that quarter for the frigate Deane under your command, and of the intencion of that Board of ordering you round into Chesapeake Bay to compleat your supply of that article. The Board in consequence of this information expect this will reach you in Chesapeake and in Order that you may be supplied with Bread and any other Provisions that you may stand in need of orders are now sent to William Aylett Esquire Deputy Commissary of Purchases at Williamsburg immediately on advice of your Arrival to procure

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

as Speedily as possible a full Supply of Bread &c for your Ship Agreeably to the Indent which you are to forward to him.

From the extream rigor of the Season and the Supplis that have been made to the French Fleet, the Board are not without apprehensions that some difficulties will attend the immediate procuring and forwarding those Supplies and indeed it is doubtful whether they can be had before the navigation of the Bay is opened. Should that happen to be the Case you must do as well as you can until the Bay is free, and advise the Board who will take the most speedy measures to furnish you afterwards from Maryland. But it is expected that no endeavours will be wanting either of your own, or Mr. Ayletts, to procure if possible the Supplies immediately—you may probably be aided by the Governor of virginia to whom you will apply in case of necessity so soon as you are furnished with what supplis may be necessary, it is the Orders of this Board that you immediately proceed upon a Cruize agreeably to your Instructions from the Navy Board at Boston which you are punctually to comply with and fulfil as far as may be in your power.

You will take care duely to inform this Board of your proceedings & wishing you health and success.—

I am Sir

Your very Hble Sert.

JOHN BROWN Secy

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO COLONEL WILLIAM AYLETT]

January 31st. 1780

Sir

The Continental frigate Deane commanded by Saml. Nicholson Esqr. not being able to procure a full supply of Bread at Boston has (on that Account) been ordered round from thence into Chesapeake Bay where it is expected she will shortly appear. This frigate being immediately wanted for a very important use the Board are extremely solicitous to have her speedily supplied, and therefore, most earnestly desire that immediately upon advice of her Arrival, you will take the most speedy and effectual measures to procure and forward to her a full supply of Bread and any other Provisions which may be wanted agreeably to the Indents which Captain Nicholson will forward to you. The Board implicitly confide in you that every thing in your power will be done to execute this Business but should it be impracticable for you to furnish a full supply, the frigate must waite, notwithstanding the urgency of the Service, until the navigation of the Bay is open when measures will be taken to supply her from Maryland and in that case they depend upon you at all events to supply what Bread may be necessary for present use.

I am Sir &c

JOHN BROWN Secy

P: S: the enclosed letter for Captain Nicholson contains his Orders and it is of much importance he should receive it immediately upon his Arrival—the Board

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY
request you will send it by a trusty express the first
news you hear of him—

[TO COLONEL WILLIAM AYLETT]

Sir February 11th. 1780

Since writing to you of the 31st. ultimo to make Provision of Bread &c for the Frigate Deane Captain Samuel Nicholson which it was then expected would shortly appear in Chesapeake Bay—the Board is informed that there is a probabillity of that Vessel being Supplied at Boston therefore it is not expected that she will call in at Chesapeake and on that Acct. you need not make any preparations, unless she should actually arrive there. You may keep the letter for Captain Nicholson which was enclosed to you for some time—say a month or Six weeks and if he does not arrive in that time you may destroy it.

I am Sir

Your Hble servt

By Order

J. BROWN Secy

[TO JOHN ADAM¹]

Sir February 12th. 1780

There is now a Prisoner at New York Mr. Robert Thierry De Etevous a french Gentleman whose son

¹ Commissary of Prisoners at Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Mr. Charles Savage Thierry will deliver you this Letter. He has permission from this Board to go to you to endeavour to effect his fathers enlargement, and also if it will facilitate that business to go into New York. By a return lately sent from New York the commissary of Prisoners had given permission to Monsr. Thierry to come out, but he was not in the way when the flag set off. The Board request that you will afford the Bearer every Assistance in your power, and that you will concert with him the most speedy means of obtaining his fathers releasement.

I am Sir &c By Order
J BROWN Secy

[TO GEORGE WASHINGTON]

Feby 15th. 1780

Sir

The recent complaints made to this Board by Prisoners from New York on Parole of Neglect in the Commissary Generals Department we flatter ourselves will apologize for our requesting your Excellencys interference. We have this day wrote to Colonel Beatty fully on the subject directing him to furnish this Board Monthly with an Accurate return of All Marine Prisoners within his Department and as we wish to do every thing in our power towards alleviateing the distresses of those poor men whom the fortune of war has subjected to the enemys power we are sure that your Excellency

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY
will assist us by Issuing your Orders to the Commissary
General for this purpose.

We have the Honor to be
Yr. Exys. Obt servants

[TO COLONEL JOHN BEATTY]

February 15th. 1780

Sir

Congress having discharged the Marine Committee did, by their Resolve bearing date the 28th. of October, and published in the Penna. Packet of the 13th. January, constitute a Board of Admiralty to consist of three Commissioners not members of Congress together with two Members of Congress and a Secretary to whose management the affairs relative to the Navy are committed. Pursuant thereto the Commissioners request that you would furnish them Monthly with a general return of all Marine Prisoners within your Department also all such Marine Prisoners subjects of the United States as have been or may be in the enemys possession, specifying in Columns the name, Country, Rank or Station of each when received, and when or for whom exchanged in Order that this Board May from time to time be accurately informed with the state of Exchanges for a proper liquidation. The recent complaints of Prisoners from New York renders an investigation absolutely necessary. As the distressed Situation of Marine Prisoners in the enemys possession calls loudly for immediate reliefe, you are directed to negotiate an

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Exchange for these unfortunate Men as soon as may be, having regard to their rank and time of confinement respectively.

You will please to observe that Lieutenant Hale of the British Navy has broke his Parole and went off from hence on the 31 of December of which you will please to take proper notice.

I am sir

Yr Hble servt
J BROWN Secy

[TO JOHN LANGDON]

Sir

February 15th 1780

By the enclosed extracts of a letter Congress received yesterday from Mr. William Bingham their Agent at Martinico you will perceive what condition the Frigate Confederacy is in at that Island.

Congress having referred the consideration of Mr. Bingham's letter to this Board, the Commissioners request that you would with all possible expedition Charter or purchase (preferring the first) a vessel and load the same with such Masts and other Sparrs as may be suitable for the frigate addressed to William Bingham, thereby enableing him to comply with his engagements to the Intendant should he be fortunately supplied with those materials from the Kings Magazines at Martinico.

The enormous expense that must arise from the frigate laying there any length of time, as well as the risque of loosing the crew are cogent motives for ex-

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY
pediting this business—You will inform this Board
with your Proceedings herein & I am sir

Your Hble sert.

J: B: Secy

[TO CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE¹]

Sir

February 22d. 1780

In answer to your letter of the 8th January I am directed to inform you it is [the] wish of this Board that the queen of france take in as much Rice as she can conveniently carry and proceed therewith immediately for this Port, provided it is the opinion of General Lincoln and yourself that this scheme is practicable, if so the Continental Agent at Charles Town will be directed to furnish the Rice accordingly.

The reasons for proposing this mode are that the Rice will be a very necessary supply for the Army, and supposing the ship not to be further useful for A Cruizer her Materials may be suitable for a new ship building here that will be launched by the time the queen of France may arrive at this port, and she may be repaired here for a merchant vessel at less expence than at Charles Town. The Board imagine from the approaching mild season when light westerly winds prevail that under your and Captain Rathburnes prudent management the foregoing plan may be practicable. However if you think that in her present situation she would be serviceable to gaurd the passage to Charles

¹ Commander of the frigate Providence.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Town without any repair we shall make no Objections to that measure for the present. I am Sir

Your Hble servant

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO CAPTAIN JOHN PECK RATHBURNE¹]

February 22d. 1780

Sir

The Board are favoured with your letter of the 6th ultimo enclosing a Survey upon the Ship Queen of France and are concerned to find that you deem her unfit to proceed on a Cruize without considerable repair. Under these circumstances the Board will direct the Continental Agent at Charles Town to put as much Rice on board the Queen of France as she can conveniently carry to proceed therewith immediately for this Port, provided upon a consultation with Captain Whipple it may be deemed practicable. The Board has wrote to Captain Whipple fully on this subject to whom they refer you. I am sir

Your hble servant

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Feby 22d. 1780

Gentlemen

The Board are favoured with your several letters of the 20th. Decemr. 7th. 18th. & 27th. January. I am

¹ Commander of the ship Queen of France.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

directed to inform you that your Bermudas scheme being communicated to the Minister of France it was his opinion that there was but one french Ship of war then in Chesapeake and she probably would sail before the Deane could arrive, and in consequence of your letter of the 7th of January informing that the Deane was preparing for a Cruize the Orders we had sent to the Commissary in Virginia to procure bread is countermanded.

Captain Read has returned an Inventory of the Sails and Rigging in the stores here suitable for the Bourbon, but upon a computation of the Cost of transporting them by land it appeared so enormous that the Board is determined to have them sent round by water as soon as the navigation opens. In Captain Reads return are several necessary Articles of Iron work in quantity about 4. Tons 8. C which must suffice for the present as it will not be in the power of this Board to send you a supply of bar Iron. To satisfy your repeated calls for money is really at this time not in their power. Congress have publickly declared that they will not emit any more Paper Money, and the several States still dilatory in collecting their taxes together with other embarrassments are such that the Treasury can scarcely supply the demands of the Army. Under these circumstances the board think it will be impossible at present to furnish your demands for Money until the Treasury is more amply supplied and to add that without the strictest Economy in future the Credit of these United States cannot be supported. I am Gentlemen

Your Hble servt

JOHN BROWN Secy

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO MAJOR-GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN¹]

February 22d. 1780

Sir

By a Letter dated the 8th. of January from Abram Whipple Esqr. Commander of the Continental frigate the Providence, this Board is informed that the Ship Queen of France has been found so defective in her Hull as renders her unfit to proceed on a Cruize without considerable repairs, such as in the opinion of the surveyors would be inadequate to the Expence. Under these circumstances the Continental Agent at Charles Town will be directed to put on board said Ship as much Rice as she can conveniently carry to proceed therewith immediately to this Port provided that in your & Captain Whipple's Opinion it will be practicable. The reasons for proposing this mode, are that the Rice will be a necessary Supply for the Army, & the Ship not being further useful for a Cruizer, her materials will be suitable for a new Ship which will be launched by the time the Queen of France may arrive at this Port, However if you and Captain Whipple should be of opinion that without repair she might be serviceable to guard the passage to Charles Town we shall not Object to her being employed as a guard ship for the present.

I am sir

Your Hble servt

J BROWN Secy

¹ In command of the Continental forces at Charleston, South Carolina.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE]

February 26th. 1780

Sir

Provided the Ship Queen of France proceeds to this Port with Rice pursuant to the directions of this Board of the 22d. instant you are to apply to George A: Hall and John L: Gervais Esquires at Charles Town who are directed to supply the quantity necessary.—

I am Sir

Your Hble servt

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

February 28th. 1780

Sir

The Board are favoured with your letter of the 30th Decemr. and are concerned at the disaster¹ that befel your Ship which obliged you to bear away for Martinico in Order to refit, they hope, from the Assistance of that government you may be enabled to return with the frigate to this Coast.

As your letter intimates an intention of touching at St. Eustatia for Orders, I am directed to inform you that you are at St. Eustatius to call upon Messrs. Curson & Gouverneur the Agents there from whom you are to

¹ Harding's ship, the Confederacy, was dismasted in a gale on November 7, 1779.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

receive on board the Confederacy such articles as they have procured for the Public service with which you are to proceed directly for this Port where the frigate will receive All necessary repairs.

I am Sir

Your very hble servt

By Order JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO WILLIAM BINGHAM]

February 28th 1780

Sir

Your letter of the 25th december being referred by Congress to this Board, they have reported to that Body the Only methods that under their present difficultys appear the most eligible for Supplying you with a fund in Order to extricate you at least in part, out of your accumulated embarrassments. Whatever Orders this Board may receive from Congress on that subject, shall be executed with all the alacrity in their power.

The Board have already given Orders for complying with your particular request relative to the Confederacy so far as relates to Masts &c: which they have directed to be shipped from the Eastern Department, in Order to replace such as the Confederacy may be furnished with from the French Government, the residue to be sold and the Money arising therefrom placed to the Credit of the United States. I am sir

Your very Hble servant

By Order JOHN BROWN Sec:

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO SAMUEL CURSON AND ISAAC GOUVERNEUR¹]

Gentlemen

March 4th. 1780

By a letter from Seth Harding Esquire the Board are informed that the Continental frigate the Confederacy being dismasted at Sea obliged him to put into Martinico to refit, and that on his return he should touch at St. Eustatius for Orders. Captain Harding is by the enclosed letter directed to take on board the frigate all such articles as you have or may procure for the United States with which he is to proceed directly for this port.

You will give Captain Harding all the Assistance and despatch in your power, the several Articles expected by him are much wanted. I am Gentn

Your very hble servant

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Gentn.

March 17th 1780

Since our last of the 22d. ultimo we are favoured with yours of the 19th. informing us of the arrival of the Mercury Packet Boat with among other Stores a quantity of lead, this being wanted by the army we have reported to the war office who have the direction of that article.—

¹ Agents of the Continental Congress.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

In our former letter we hinted at the then low state of the Public treasury and we are sorry to say it is not as yet in the power of that Board to comply with the requisitions of the Marine Department. We have at this time bills presented drawn by the Agent at Charles Town for large Sums said to be for supplying the Continental armed vessels on that Station which we shall find it difficult to honor. We have a letter from John Langdon Esquire at Portsmouth dated the 2d february informing us, that without a present supply of Money he cannot go on with the 74 gun ship nor can he make any dependance on either your Board or Mr. Bradford and that he had settled his Accounts with your Board up to the 6th. of December last.

We are repeatedly called upon by Congress to report the State of all Naval Accounts subject to the direction of this Board; for this purpose we again call upon you for those relative to the Eastern Department Mr. Langdons included.

Mr. Bradford by letter dated the 18th January informs us that he had paid to the Navy Board £544,544,, 13,,9 and by letter of the 14th february that since the said 18th. Jany. he had supplied the Navy Board with a further sum of £70,000. We have been induced to hope these sums would enable you to assist Mr. Langdon till we can obtain a further supply from the Treasury which is not in their present power to grant.

I am Gentlemen

Your Hble Servant
by Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO JOHN LANGDON]

March 17th. 1780

Sir

We are now to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d Ultimo, it gives us pain to inform you such is the present state of the Public Treasury that Money cannot at this time be Obtained for the reasons given in our former letter, therefore we have no other hope for resources than what may be in the power of the Navy Board at Boston, and Mr. Bradford to furnish you with. Mr. Bradford by letter of the 18th. January informs us that he had then paid into the Navy Board £544,544. 13.9 and by letter of the 14th feby that since the said 18th. January he had supplied the Navy Board with a further Sum of £70,000. We hope the Navy Board will be able to furnish you from time to time in such a Manner as to keep the work going on so as at least to get the ship into the water and thereby preserve the Hull till the Treasury can enable us to give you further Assistance & not suffer the Ship totally to perish which we conceive must inevitably be her fate if she is to remain on the Stocks any considerable length of time. We are repeatedly called upon by Congress to inform them of the State of all Naval Accounts subject to the direction of this Board, you tell us that you have from time to time settled your Accounts with the Eastern Navy Board up to the 6th. of December last. This Board having never yet been furnished with those Accounts they cannot make an Accurate report of the Expenditures.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Mr. Benjamin Harrison jr. Agent in Virginia has purchased 2160 Bushels Coals in James River—we shall direct him to Charter a vessel to convey those Coals to Portsmouth together with some Bread if it can be procured, and shall endeavour to send you Iron from hence whenever we are in Cash to purchase it, in the interim the Iron saved out of the Sommersett we hope may be made useful. By the Picture we have drawn of the low State of finances, you will be convinced that it is out of [our] power at this juncture to furnish you with Money from the Treasury and must therefore in part rely on your exertions to extricate us out of our present difficulties.

I am sir &c

by Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO GEORGE WASHINGTON]

March 23d. 1780

Sir

The Board was yesterday favoured with your Excellencys letter of the 15th. instant relative to a Naval expedition proposed to be conducted by Major General Arnold. It was doubtful whether a sufficient Naval force could be collected in Season for the purpose and it was still more doubtful whether three or four hundred men could under its present circumstances be spared from the Army which number of men it seems were essential to the expedition and therefore we told General Arnold that previous to entering on the busi-

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ness it was necessary to know from your Excellency whether those men could be spared. As they cannot be spared we shall drop every Idea of the proposed expedition. We are Sir &c &c

FRANCIS LEWIS Chn.

[TO BENJAMIN HARRISON¹]

March 23d. 1780

Sir

In a Letter addressed to the Commercial Committee of Congress dated the 12th. August 1778 which is now before this Board you advise having Contracted for 2160 Bushels Coal by Order of the Honble Robert Morris Esq.

This Coal is now much wanted for the use of a 74 Gun Ship which is building at Portsmouth in the State of New Hampshire under the direction of John Langdon Esqr. Continental Agent at that place and unless speedily supplied the work must stop. To prevent that consequence I am Ordered to request that you will immediately charter a suitable fast sailing vessel for the purpose of transporting this Coal to the port abovementioned and despatch her therewith to the address of Mr. Langdon. As it is probable that this Coal will not be a full lading for the Vessel which you may employ and as a Supply of Bread is much wanted for the use of the aforesaid Ship, the Board have now given Orders to William Aylett Esquire Depty Commissary of Pur-

¹ Delegate to the Continental Congress, 1774-1778, from Virginia.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

chases at Williams burg on being advised by you of the quantity of Bread or flour that will be required to load the vessel, to purchase and send the same to such place as you may direct, of which be pleased to take notice and advise Mr. Aylett accordingly.

Any Contracts you may make necessary for the execution of this business will be punctually fulfilled by this Board on whom you may draw for your Disbursements, or they will remit you as you may judge expedient.

Please to forward an Invoice and bill of Lading to Mr. Langdon and send Duplicates to this Board whom you will please to advise of your proceedings.

I am Sir

Your obedt servt
JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO COLONEL WILLIAM AYLETT]

March 23d. 1780

Sir

This Board has given Orders to Mr. Benjamin Harrison jr. of Berkley Charles City County to Charter a Vessel for the purpose of transporting a quantity of Coal to portsmouth in the State of New Hampshire for the use of a Seventy four Gun Ship building at that place. As it is probable that the vessel which Mr. Harrison may Charter will not be fully ladened with the Coal, and the Article of Bread is very much wanted for the use of the Afsd. Ship, I am directed by the Board to request that you will purchase or deliver from the Public Magazines as much Bread or flour (which ever

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may be most convenient) as will be required to fill up the Vessel which may be Chartered, the quantity of which Mr. Harrison will inform you and the place to which you are to send it. You will please to take duplicate receipts for what you deliver and transmit one of them with an Invoice and your Acct of Charges attending the delivery to this Board who (should you be without public Moneys in yr hands sufficient) will remit you or pay your drafts for all expenditures attending this business. I am &c &c

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO ABRAHAM LIVINGSTON¹]

March 23d. 1780

Sir

We had lately presented to this Board two of your drafts for 20,000 Dollars each viz One in favour of Archibald Gamble the other of Charles Ferguson payable at ten days sight but without any letter of advice or Indorsment. This we must observe is not doing business in the regular mode, notwithstanding which we have paid those bills.

We have since been presented with another of your drafts dated the 25 January payable at six days sight for 70,000 Dollars in favour of Mr. William Riddle drawn per advice but no letters of advice from you has appeared. Mr. Riddle tells us he is your Clerk of which we have no other testimony than the Ipse dixit of a person we do not know. Certainly in pursuing the regular

¹ Continental agent in South Carolina.

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mode of business your bills ought to be accompanied at least with an account of the expences disbursed but no account hath been sent us, and altho we have letters from Captain Abram Whipple up to the 14th february, no mention is made of Money or any other supplies from you. For these reasons the Board have determined to suspend the honoring your Bill for 70,000 dollars untill they are furnished with some Account of the expenditure. You must be sensible that this Board cannot be justified to Congress and the public in honoring bills peremptorily drawn without letters of advice and other documents proving the expenditure and they are not warranted to place such power in the hands of any individual. Mr. Riddle informs us that you desired him to acquaint the Board that you intend to quit the Agency, if this were your intention we should have thought you would have communicated your intentions in some other manner than by the verbal declaration of a person unknown to us. I am sir yrs &c

JOHN BROWN Secy

P: S: the bill drawn by Captain James Robinson in favour of Mr. Riddle tho' not endorsed is honored.

[TO CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE]

March 24th. 1780

Sir

We wrote you the 26th february in answer to your letter of the 7th January since which we are favoured

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with yours of the 14th february. In your letter of the 7th. January you request that a quantity of Bread and flour may be sent you from hence, this is not in our power at present to accomplish and if it were the difficulty of Procuring Vessels to transport it together with the probabillity of its falling into the enemys hands is such that it would be very imprudent at this time to attempt it. We are also informed by the South Carolina Delegates that the State can furnish the Squadron with a Substitute for those Articles.

The Board have an high opinion of your Zeal for the service of your Country and doubt not your exerting it on every occasion relying on your prudence and Œconomy, We are

Sir

Your very Hble servants

By Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

March 28th. 1780

Sir

It is the desire of the Board of Admiralty that you will embrace the first good opportunity of sending to this place the remainder of the public Wine in your care by some fast sailing Vessel that may be coming here.

The Board also desire that you will inform them exactly the quantity of Rum and Sugar belonging to the

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Public in your possession, also what you have delivered in consequence of former Orders and to whom.

I am sir

Your Hble Sert

J: BROWN Secy

[TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN]

March 28th. 1780

Sir

By the annexed List you will perceive the present disposition of the Continental Navy in North America. The detachment of four ships to guard the harbour of Charles Town has subjected our Coasts to the depredations of the enemys armed Vessels from New York who of late have frequently appeared in our bays and made many Captures. For these reasons the Board think it will be necessary that the frigate Alliance should be forthwith Ordered to proceed for this port and should any Supplys for our Navy and Army be ready in france a part may be sent in the Alliance and the residue in other Armed Vessels under her Convoy.

I have the honor to be

Yr. Excellencys

Obt servt.

FRANCIS LEWIS

by Order

P: S: the Board would be highly obliged to your Excellency to send them a set of drafts of the New Ships in the Royal Navy of France for the use of our Master builders.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

March 31. 1780

Sir's

The enclosed are Copies of Papers sent by Captain John Orde senior Officer Commanding the British Ships of war at Halifax, directed to Congress and by them referred to this Board, who are of opinion that you Gentlemen should make a strict enquiry into the truth of these allegations, and report thereon to this Board as soon as may be. By Captain Ordes letter it is probable the Owner of the schooner may be at Boston, if so, and the facts relative to the Clandestine taking of said Schooner be true, the Boards opinion is that she should be restored to the owner with all reasonable damages that have accrued to him by said Capture, but this should by no means be made a Continental Charge, as the Privateer Revenge was private property. Your letter of the 24th of November mentions a Box of types, Paper and other Materials for Counterfeiting the Currency, taken by Captain Nicholson and lodged in your custody, It is the direction of Congress that the same be forwarded in a secure way to the Treasury office in Philadelphia. The Board have yesterday reported to Congress a plan for furnishing you with Money, by the Sale of Rum and sugars in the possession of Mr. Bradford, that you may be enabled to supply Colo. Langdon &c:— I am directed again to urge your transmitting the general Accounts, and also that you will furnish the

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Board with the names and present condition of the
Packet Boats under your direction. I am Sir's

Your Hble servant

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO CAPTAIN PATRICK DENNIS]

April 4th. 1780

Sir

You are hereby directed to collect all the Pearl ash
belonging to the Public that has been lodged in differ-
ent places near Hudsons River—get the same examined
and the casks properly secured, and sent on to Phila-
delphia under direction to this board giving advice
thereof.

I am Sir

Your Hble servant

FRANCIS LEWIS

[TO HEWES, SMITH, AND ALLEN]

April 7th. 1780

Gentlemen

We received by the last Post your letters of the 1st.
January and the 6th of March last, giving us an Ac-
count that on the 25th of December some Villans with
false keys had entered the ware House where the public
Canvass was stored and carried away the whole except
three Bolts—that they likewise carried away a large
Quantity of Salt from you; that you had found out some
of the Offenders had hanged two and were in pursuit of

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a third. The hanging all that were concerned in perpetrating this Villany would indeed be a poor compensation to you or to us for any losses we have sustained. Perhaps by writing to Virginia to some proper persons you may discover with whom the goods were lodged there for Sale, and may be able to recover a part & perhaps the whole value of them. Doubtless there was a gang concerned in this business and part of it reside in Virginia.

As you are interested in this matter we trust that you will take the best measures for the detection of these Robbers and the recovery of the Goods or the value of them.

Considering the circumstances of this Roberry we cannot forbear taxing you with neglect, but we have still a greater reason to blame you when we consider that if you had complied with requisition made for the Canvass in pursuance of the Commercial Committees Order by William Bennett of Edenton, who writes to Francis Lewis Esquire then of the Commercial Committee, now of this Board in his Letter dated Edenton Decemr. 1779, "I applied to Messrs. Hewes Smith & Allen for the 37 pieces sail Duck, but they could give me no Account of them till they had *overhauled their Books*" the Duck would have been safe. That *overhawling of Books* could be necessary in Order to the delivery of the 37 Pieces of Duck we cannot conceive when by a return of the Continental Stores that have been received by Hewes, Smith & Allen, made by Hewes Smith & Allen dated Edenton Augt. 28th. 1778 and rendered in October 1779 it appears that they were in your possession. If the Duck had been delivered to Order which you

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

ought to have complied with, it would not have been lost.

If you thought it was not our property when demanded you will not, we hope, think it our loss now it is stolen.—We should be glad upon an explanation of this dark business to have reason to continue that confidence we once placed in your constant Attention to Public Charges.

We desire you will transmit to us by the first safe opportunity the balance of your Accounts with the Marine & Commercial Committees being $\begin{array}{r} £2493.13.4 \\ 3953. 8.5 \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} £6447.1.9 \end{array} \right.$
No. Carolina Currency agreeably to accounts furnished & settled by your Mr. Hewes.

I am Gentlemen

Your Hble servant

By Order

J BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Sirs

April 7th. 1780

As there is a probability of the Frigate Trumbull, by the time this comes to hand, being nearly ready for a Cruize, and being informed by Colonel Blain[e] Commissary of Purchases that he has ordered a quantity of Sugar, Rum & Wine (public property) to be shipped at Boston for this place, we are of opinion it might be adviseable if from the circumstances of time and place it

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could be effected, that Captain James Nicholson be directed to endeavour to fall in with the ship having the public property, by Cruizing for her two or three days off Block Island, and if met with in that time to convoy said Ship to the Capes of Delaware, provided that this can be effected without any loss of time to the Trumbull in regard to her destined Cruise, this we submit intirely to your direction being more immediately Acquainted with the circumstances of time place &c: and should Capt. Nicholson Arrive at the Delaware that he be directed immediately to advise this Board. As the Board presume you have 'ere this concerted A plan for the Trumbulls Cruise they desire that the same may be communicated to them as soon as may be, but do not mean that waiting for their approbation should delay the Trumbull one day. It is necessary to inform you that this Coast has been lately infested by Armed Vessels from New York who have made many valuable Captures—that we have a ship of 16 guns to be launched on Monday next and that we have Ordered the Confederacy to this Port, so that Captain James Nicholson should be ordered to return to the Delaware upon the expiration of his Cruise when we may be enabled to send out all three in force, that Captain Nicholson be Ordered to send what Prizes he may take into the nearest port of the United States pursuant to our general Instructions of the 10th of December. Should the Trumbull Afford Convoy to the Ship above mentioned the Owners of her should lower the freight accordingly.—We are Gentn

Your Hble svts.

J BROWN Secy

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

April 7th. 1780

Sir

The News Papers makes mention of a prize ship laden with Jamaica Spirit, taken by the frigate Deane being arrived at your port, If this be true the Board think it extra ordinary that you have not advised them of it, and desire that you will not dispose of any part of the Continental share of her Cargo without their Orders, and that you strictly Observe that Rule in similar cases hereafter.

I am sir

Your Hble servt.

J : BROWN Sec:

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

April 11th. 1780

Gentlemen

By your letter of the 9th. instant we are informed that you have sent the Active Packet to New London with Cannon, Cables, and Other Stores for the Trumbull & Bourbon. we could wish you had Specified the identical stores &c sent for the Bourbon, as Captain Read has selected out of the Materials saved from two frigates burn't by the British which will be sent by water to New London, but by this Omission we may send more

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

of some Articles than will be wanted for that frigate. We would have you direct the Mercury Packet to be immediately fitted for the Sea, Mr. Bradford the Agent will have our Orders to Ship on board said Packet 20 hhds of Prize sugar and as much Rum as will fill up, but so, as not to impede her Sailing, when laden she is to proceed directly to this Port.

We can by no means approve your proposal of permitting the Captains of Packets to take goods on freight, even should they be only in ballast, as it would be introducing a practice productive of many Abuses. It cannot be imagined that the Public will be at the expence of furnishing Vessels for the emolument of individuals, when they are frequently paying high freights for their goods imported in private Bottoms, beside some members of Congress, have informed the Board that the Mercury brought to Boston a very valuable Cargo on freight, you are therefore directed to demand a freight list of the Mercurys Cargo together with the customary freight for the same, allowing Captain Samson what you may deem a reasonable privilege.—

We have this moment been favoured with your letters of the 21st. Ultimo and were previously Apprized of the Confederacy's situation by letters from the Agent Mr. Bingham and Captain Harding, the later informing us that he should touch at St. Eustatius in expectation of receiving our Orders; and as the Agents at St. Eustatius had purchased several Necessaries for the Army we by letters of the 28th. february directed Captain Harding to take those Articles on board and proceed directly to this port.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

We have not hitherto been able to effectuate a Mode for Supplying you with Money tho we are straining every nerve for that purpose; and notwithstanding our efforts for obtaining a part of the Many Prizes continually sending into Boston to be sent here as a place by far more convenient for the Army, yet so it is, that our Army becomes destitute of those very Articles which the ports at a distance super abound in.

I am Gentn

Your hble sert.

J BROWN Sec:

P: S: Enclosed is a List of the Articles we intend sending from this place for the use of the Bourbon.

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

April 11th 1780

Sir

We are favoured with your letter of the 22d. Ulto. informing us of the arrival of the Prize Ship Hume, which being bound from Jamaica to New York induces us to conjecture that she was Captured to the Southward of Sandy Hook, if so, we must have more authentic proofs than the prize Masters Ipse dixit for his not bringing the Prize into the Delaware pursuant to his Orders.

We cannot help observing that the Major part of Prizes taken by Continental Armed Vessels are Crowded into Boston which thereby Abounds with West India produce, whilst this port tho in the vicinity of Head Quarters are so destitute of those Articles nec-

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

essary for the Army, that the commissaries are obliged to purchase here at double the Boston prices.—

Enclosed we send you a Resolve of Congress for your Shipping twenty hhds of Prize Sugar in the Mercury Packet for this place to which you are to add as much Rum of the Humes Cargo as will compleat her lading, for which purpose we have directed the Navy Board to fit out the Mercury with all expedition, when laden let A duplicate bill of lading be sent us by Post to gether with an exact Invoice Copy of the Humes Cargo and description of the ship &c which mode you are to pursue with all future prizes that may come under your direction.

I am Sir

Your Hble servts.

J BROWN Sec:

[TO JOHN M. NESBITT AND JOHN NIXON¹]

April 12th 1780

Gentlemen

Congress having empowered and directed this Board to call upon the Several Agents for a settlement of their respective Accounts relative to the Continental Prizes you are therefore requested to furnish the Board with an Account of the disposition of all such Prizes under your Agency.

I am Gentlemen

Your Obedt Hble sert

By Order

JOHN BROWN Sec:

¹ Continental agents at Philadelphia.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

14th April 1780

Sir

We are favoured with your letters of the 30th Ultimo covering Invoice and bill of Lading for the remainder of the Wine. From your former letters the Board conceived that the Continental moiety of those Wines was 75 Pipes and wd be glad to have that matter explained. We are under great anxiety for the arrival of the Maria, as by your letter we are induced to believe that she sailed by the first instant—the property on board is considerable and the loss of it will be a great disappointment to the Public. In our letter of the 11th instant you were directed to Ship on board the Mercury Packet twenty hhds of the best continental sugars, together with as much Rum of the Humes Cargo as will fill her up for this place, to which we would have added the moiety of that choice Spirit said to be destined for the British Admirall remainder of the Moiety of the Humes Cargo you are to reserve till farther orders. We are

Sir &c.

J BROWN Sec

[TO JOHN LANGDON]

April 14th. 1780

Sir

We have been favoured with your letters of the 5th and 18th Ulto., wherein you inform us that unless you

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are supplied with Money either from the Navy Board or Admiralty, it will not be in your power to Ship the Masts &c for Martinico. We are sorry to say that such is still the low state of the Treasury that it will be impossible for us at this juncture to Obtain Money from thence, so that our sole relyance must be on the Navy Board at Boston to supply you. In Order to Obtain some Money for the Military Chest Congress has been necessitated to risque a large quantity of their Sugar and Rum from Boston by water, induced thereto by knowing that those Articles will yield above 100 per Cent more at this place than at Boston, which proceeds from the imprudent management of sending nearly all Continental prizes into that Port, to the emolument of some individuals but of great detriment to the Public and Army as by the distance of places the latter can reap no benefit from those Articles so essentially necessary for the Army.

I am Sir

Your very hble servant

By Order

JOHN BROWN Sec:

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON¹]

April 17th 1780

Sir

The Board were this day favoured with your letter of the 27th Ultimo by which they find the frigate Trum-

¹ Commander of the frigate Trumbull.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

bull is compleatly rigged, wooded & Watered with 120 Men on board officers included, and that she only waited for some additional provision & Cannon which you have no doubt will be on board in three weeks.

As the Continental Ship Saratoga Captain John Young is now launched and fitting with the utmost expedition the Board intend that Ship to Cruize in concert with the Trumbull, therefore you are hereby directed to take a short Cruize in such latitudes as you think will be most likely to annoy the enemy, and afterward come into Delaware towards the latter end of the Month of June, in Order to join the Saratoga and any other of the Continental ships which may be here at that time. On your arrival at the Capes send an express to advise the Board thereof and the state of your Ship, who (should there be Occasion) will give Orders for compleating your Complement of Men & Provision from hence. Any Prizes you may take you are to send into this port, if from your situation and other circumstance it may be deemed the most convenient.

The Board have reason to expect the Continental frigates Alliance & Confederacy soon on this Coast, therefore they hope to have a squadron of respectable force, especially if the Deane & Bourbon can be added.

I am Sir &c &c

By Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

April 18th 1780

Gentlemen

Since the Boards last letter of the 11th instant they are favoured with yours of the 31st. ultimo.

The Board did not expect the people of Connecticut would escape the general contagion, but could not have imagined the Carpenters there would have exceeded the Carpenters here, who find themselves and have not exacted upon an average for their work at the Continental Ship Saratoga the sum of 46 Dollars. When it is considered that the Carpenters there have their rations found them and the expence of subsisting a family there is not half so great as it is here, the Board are astonished at the extravagance of their Demands, and can by no means admit of their being paid that sum exclusive of their rations.

The Board being informed by Captain James Nicholson that he would be soon ready to Sail—have ordered him to proceed on a short cruize in such Latitudes, as may be most likely to annoy the enemy, and afterward return to this Port to join the new ship Saratoga now fitting out here. The Board are informed the Confederacy has sailed from Martinico for Boston under jury masts should she arrive you will immediately put her in a state of preperation to receive their Orders; and the same you will do with respect to the Alliance should she arrive at Boston.

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The Board are well advised that a squadron of 12 sail of the Line have Arrived at Martinico, and a number of troops which will give the french a decided superiority in the West Indies. Whilst they cover and protect their trade and our trade in that quarter—the Board means to do the same along our Coast.

I am Gentn

Your Hble sert

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING]

Sir

May 2d. 1780

The Board are favoured with your letter of the 28th Ultimo informing them of the arrival of the frigate Confederacy.

As the Masts & Spars wanted for the Confederacy can be furnished here, you are directed immediately to proceed up with the Ship to this place where the most speedy measures will be taken for fitting her out again with all expedition.

I am Sir

Your very Hble servant

By Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO JOHN LANGDON]

Sir

May 2d. 1780

The Board are favoured with your letter of the 8th ultimo and have the pleasure to inform you of the ar-

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rival of the Confederacy in this River where she will be fitted for the Sea, therefore it will not be necessary for you at present to send a Vessel with Masts &c. to Martinico. In answer to the remainder of your said letter must refer to what the Board will write you by the next post.

I am sir

Your very Hble Sert.

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

May 2d 1780

Gentlemen

The Board are favoured with your letters of the 8th April. Your advice relative to the Confederacy was premature which I have the pleasure to inform you is now arrived in this River where she will be fitted for the Sea with all possible expedition.

As the Board have in contemplation a plan which they intend shall be executed by as many of the Continental ships as can be collected, it is their desire that the Deane (which is said to be Arrived at Boston) be fitted again with all possible expedition and sent to sea with orders to put into the Delaware by the latter end of June at which time the Trumbull after a short Cruize is Ordered to be there; and these Ships with the Confederacy and Saratoga are to proceed together on the intended plan. You say that it will be utterly out of

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

your power to furnish any considerable quantity of Bread unless you are Supplied with flour from Philada.

The Board conceive sending flour from hence will be too hazardous especially as many of the enemies Cruizers are now upon our Coasts, which induces them to recommend you furnishing the Deane with four Months wet provisions and as much Bread as may be sufficient for the passage round when she can be fully supplied here. Inclosed you have a list of articles wanted for the Navy in this Department which the Board desire may be sent round in the Deane or Mercury Packet. Pray inform the Board what other packet Boats are at Boston. By a Vessel arrived yesterday in 17 days from the Island of Hispaniola we are informed that St. Lucia is taken by the french fleet together with 7 or 9 British Ships of the line. The french fleet now in the West Indies consists of 25 Ships of the line and a number of frigates.

I have the honor to be Gentl.

Yr. Hble servant
JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO GEORGE WASHINGTON]

May 6th. 1780

Sir

The Board being directed by Congress to send your Excellency two pipes of the best Maderia Wine, the same is put under the care of a Waggon Master as by his receipt enclosed. Two pipes of the same quality was

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY
heretofore sent to your Excellency from Egg Harbour,
the Board wish to know if they have been received.

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellencys

Obedt Hble servant

F LEWIS Chairman

[TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN]

May 6th 1780

Sir

By the enclosed affidavits and protests you will perceive that James Robinson Esquire late commander of the Continental sloop Fly being dispossessed of that sloop by a majority of the Crew at Sea, was together with his Docter and Pilot put on board a Schooner called the Daphne bound from Providence to New York which schooner they also took possession of and carried her with her Cargo to the french fleet then laying off Georgia, where the said schooner Daphne and Cargo was taken from them by the Captain of the french frigate Chimere. Captain Robinson his docter and Pilot being by a resolve of Congress dated the 14th of October 1777 entitled to the Sole property of said schooner Daphne and Cargo applied to this Board for relief in the premisses, who immediately laid the enclosed papers before His Excellency the Chevr. De la Luzerne Minister plenipotentiary of France from whom the Board received the following written Message in the french language. "The Chevalier De la Luzerne has the Honor to Send back to Mr. Holker the papers rela-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

tive to the Capture of Captain Robinson, this Gentleman must direct three or four proved Copies of them to Docter Franklin who can follow the Affair to the greatest advantage. Feby 29th 1780." pursuant to the Chevaliers advice we have taken the liberty to trouble you with the enclosed papers in hopes that you may be enabled to Obtain for Captain Robinson some compensation for the loss of the Daphne and Cargo.

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellencys

Very Hble servt.

F LEWIS

[TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.]

May 9th 1780

Sir

The Board have this day received your letter of the 26th ultimo announcing the arrival of a Polacca laden with Wine & fruits, Prize to the Deane frigate Captain Nicholson.

You are directed to cause the Cargo to be divided and the Continental Moiety reserved until the farther Orders of this Board, but should the fruit from its present state be liable to perish soon, we would in that case have the fruit sold, unless you could procure a small fast sailing Vessel to bring it round to this port on freight. As Anchors, Cables and other Cordage are much wanted for the Navy, if any such can be spared from the Polacca we would advise the selling them seperate from the vessel, and purchased for the Navy. If it be

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

practicable, we wish you to send to General Washington about a dozen Boxes Lemons which we shall inform him of by Post. You will also inform the Board by the first Opportunity with an exact Invoice of the Polacca's Cargo & condition of the Vessel. We are sir

Your Hble serts.

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

May 12th 1780

Sir

The foregoing is a Copy of our last¹ since which we have not been favoured with any of yours. Within these few days your Packet relative to the Lord Sandwich packet Boat was handed to us by Lieutenant Brown which was immediately lodged with the Secretary of Congress and Council retained in the Cause when determined by the Court of Appeals shall advise you. As the Navy Board is directed to fit out the Dean frigate to proceed to this Bay with the utmost expedition, you are directed to put on board of her as much of the Humes Cargo of prize Rum as she can conveniently take in, reserving 60 hhds which you are directed to sell, and deliver the Money arising therefrom to the Commissioners of the Navy Board at Boston. The enclosed are Copies of Major Lees application for a pipe of Maderia Wine which he aledges was by Mr. Henley engaged for with you. We have answered that as you

¹ See letter to Bradford, page 184. The copy was not entered in the Marine Committee Letter Book.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

were not Authorized to sell any of the Continental Wines, and we had no information from you respecting this matter we did not think proper to deliver a pipe of those in our possession, nor to decide respecting any engagement you may have made.

We are Sir

Your Hble servts.

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

May 12th 1780

Gentlemen

We are favoured with your letter of the 18th. ultimo acknowledging the receipt of ours dated the 7th & 31 March we have since wrote you of the 7th & 11th ultimo which we presume were not then received. We observe you intend to send the Box with types and papers to the treasury Board, and that your next will inform us with the result of your enquiry relative to the conduct of the privateer Brig Revenges Crew. you say you are pleased with the prospect of being supplied with money thro Captain Bradfords hands by the Sale of Rum and sugar; In consequence we suppose of a plan reported by us to Congress for that purpose which we are sorry to say is rejected, the Commissary Genl. of Purchases being previously empowered to dispose of all the Sugar & Rum in Captain Bradfords hands in Order to furnish a fund for purchasing provisions for the

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Army—and having given Mr. Bradford directions not to sell any of the Rum imported in the Hume, we presume that the Rum and sugar supplied Colonel Langdon, was part of the 20 & 30 hhds deliver'd your Board by an Order to Mr. Bradford the 20th November last.

In our letter of the 11th ultimo we requested the Mercury Packet should be immediately fitted to receive sugar and Rum which Captain Bradford is directed to put on board for this place, least that letter should miscarry it is now repeated. Our letter of the 18th Ultimo & 2d instant informed you that we had Ordered Captain James Nicholson with the Trumbull on a short Cruize and to return to this Bay by the latter end of June; and as the Deane is Arrived at Boston we would have her fitted out with the utmost expedition so as to be here also by the latter end of June, we presume you can furnish the Deane with wet provision sufficient for a four Months Cruize—the Bread kind can be furnished here. We shall direct Captain Bradford to sell 60 hhds of the Prize ship Humes Rum and deliver the Money into your hands. We shall also direct him to put on board the Deane as much of the remainder of said Rum as she can conveniently carry. If the Copper Bottomed Snow prize to the Deane be in your opinion fit for a Cruizer you are directed to purchase her for the Public service. The Board disapprove the Idea of Concerting their frigates with Privateers the public having already suffered thereby. We are pleased to find that your general Accounts will be forwarded in a few days. As we are very anxious to have all our Accounts adjusted.

We are Gentn

Your hble servts

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

P: S: the Confederacy having lost some of her Anchors & Cables the following¹ are wanted for her, which if they can be procured you are directed to ship on board the Deane for this place if they cannot be had with you or any part of them please to Advise by Post.

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON]

May 12th. 1780

Sir

The Board are favoured with your letters of the 6th & 18th ultimo and congratulate you on your safe arrival with your prizes at Boston. We have by letter this day directed the Navy Board to fit out the Deane with the utmost expedition so as to be in Delaware bay by the latter end of June in Order to join the Confederacy, Saratoga (fitting here) and the Trumbull who after a Short Cruize is also ordered into the Delaware. These four Ships are to Act in Concert on a particular expedition we therefore rely on your exertions in getting the Deane fitted so as to be at the rendezvous in time. We have directed Mr. Bradford to send round in the Deane to this place as much rum as she can conveniently carry which you will take particular care of.

I am Sir

Your hble Servt.

JOHN BROWN Sec:

¹ Not given in the Marine Committee Letter Book.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

May 18th. 1780

Gentlemen

Your favours of the 24th & 29th. ultimo we received with their enclosures the 16th. instant. On the 17th. ultimo we gave Captain James Nicholson orders to make a short Cruize so as to return to the Delaware by the latter end of June in order to join the Saratoga, Confederacy &c. Captain Nicholson acknowledges the receipt of said Orders, yet intimates his intention of proceeding upon your plan, this puzzles us especially as in our letter to the Navy Board of the 7th Ultimo is the following paragraph "so that Captain Nicholson should be Ordered to return to the Delaware at the expiration of his Cruize when we may be enabled to send out all three in force" meaning the Trumbull Confederacy & Saratoga. Our subsequent letters on that subject we must Suppose you had not received on the 29th. April but hope will be in time to prevent the Hudson Bay expedition which is disaproved.

I am Gentn

Your hble servt

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

May 19th 1780

Sir

Since writing you the 12th I am favoured with yours of the 1st. current which has been before the Board.—

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

It was not meant that Captain Nicholson designed to favour you by sending his prizes into Boston—the Board expressed their disapprobation of Prizes being sent generally into that port (so far from the Army) to the disadvantage of the public service. Your distributing any part of the public Wines contrary to express orders of the Board is very unsatisfactory. Altho a disposition to Oblige is an agreeable quality of the mind, yet it should not have led you to a breach of Orders—the Board conceive that Mr. Peters & Mr. Pickering might as well have had their two half pipes at this place, as from you at Boston, nor should any reasons that could be Assigned by any private Gentlemen in Boston have induced you to spare them any part of the Wine. Those Gentlemen had an opportunity of supplying themselves at the Captors Sales, which if they did not improve, they could not reasonably expect to be supplied from the public store. The Board have no doubt but this proceeding will be disadvantageous to the public in the difference of price with you and at this place—pray inform them the quantity and price you sold at, also a particular Account of the public Share of that Cargo of Wines when divided with the Captors—they also desire you will send an inventory of the Hume and inform them what she sold for; and in general in all matters which relates to your Agency you are to keep them Minutely and Accurately informed.

I am Sir &c

J BROWN Sec

P: S: The Board have not yet received any particular Account of the Humes Cargo altho she has been long

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY
arrived they desire you will send it and in future be
more particular.—

[TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.]

May 22d. 1780

Sir

By letter from the Board dated the 9th. instant you were directed to reserve the Continental moiety of the prize Wines until farther Orders and to send the fruit by water to this place.—but from the present scarcity of money here, and the urgent necessity for the same in Order to fit out and Man two Ships of war now in this port we are compelled to direct that the Wines be immediately sold for ready money together with the Polacre &c as also the Fruit, if not already Shipped pursuant to the former Order (excepting 12 Boxes to be reserved for the General) and that the whole Money Arising from said sale be immediately sent to this Board and under a Safe gaurd if necessary. Mr. Ephraim Bill 2d Lieutenant of Marines to the Confederacy will deliver you this, who is directed at his return to call upon you, by whom we hope you will send us as much Money as you can possibly collect, for without an immediate Assistance from you the Confederacy &c cannot be fitted for Sea.

We are Sir

Your Hble servts
by Order.

JOHN BROWN Secy

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON]

May 22d 1780

Sir

The Board are favoured with your letter of the 3d. instant acknowledging the receipt of theirs of the 17th ultimo, wherein they expressly directed you to proceed with the Trumbull on a short Cruize so as to return to the Delaware by the latter end of June in Order to join the Confederacy Saratoga & Deane for the execution of a particular plan concerted by this Board.—

The Board are concerned to find your last letter seems to indicate an intention of your concerting with the private Ship of war Mifflin upon a different plan. We now repeat our former Order vizt. that you make a short Cruize so as to return to the Delaware as above directed. We are

Your Hble servants
by Order
JOHN BROWN Sec

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

May 23d. 1780

Sir

Since our letters of the 18th Instant the Board have received the Originals of which the enclosed are

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Copies. Mr. Jay minister at the Court of Madrid has also informed the Board with the names of Nine other American Seamen whom he has also furnished with Money and procured them a passage in the Brig. Expedition Captain Morgan on the same conditions as the enclosed, duplicates of their Contracts and Obligations Mr. Jay informs was sent by said Brigantine addressed to your Board—these Seamen if arrived will be some addition in Manning the Deane.

We must again urge you to use your utmost exertions in fitting out and manning the Deane, so as she may arrive here by the the last of June, as the execution of a plan concerted by this Board greatly depends thereon. We are still in the dark as to the destination of the Trumbull—by letter of the 17th April Captain James Nicholson was by this Board directed, after a Short Cruize to return to the Delaware, of which letter he Acknowledges the receipt, and yet seems by his construction of that order, to conceive, that he is at Liberty to proceed upon the other plan, if it be not still too late, the board require that their Order of the 17th April be strictly complied with.

We must also remind you that the Deane is to bring round as much of the Continental Rum as she can conveniently carry, we have given Captain Bradford the Agent Orders accordingly.

I am Gentlemen

Your Hble servants

JOHN BROWN Sec

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL]

Sir May 30th 1780

Pursuant to the Resolutions of Congress passed the 27th inst. relative to the Navy which will be transmitted to your Excellency by their Secretary, I am directed by the Board to Solicit every assistance in your power, by furnishing money and otherwise towards preparing the frigate Bourbon for launching and compleating her for Sea.

As from the distance of place it is impossible for this Board to be acquainted with the situation of the Bourbon from time to time and supply what may be wanted we have directed John Deshon Esquire a Commissioner of the Eastern Navy Board to apply to your Excellency for assistance and we request that his application may be regarded as made by this Board. It is unnecessary to inform your Excellency of the utillity of having our Naval force in readiness to act in conjunction with a Squadron of our Allies which may be shortly expected.

I have the Honor to be Sir

Your Obedt servant

F LEWIS per Order

[TO JOHN DESHON]

Sir May 30th 1780

Enclosed are Copies of Resolutions of Congress passed the 27th inst. as also a Letter from this Board to

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

His Excellency Govr Trumbull soliciting him to give every aid in his power, with money and otherwise towards compleating the frigate Bourbon for the Sea you will therefore make application to his Excellency for such assistance as you may want and inform the Board by every opportunity of your proceedings therein as also of the present situation of the ship and what materials may from time to time be necessary for compleating her.—A small addition to our Naval force to act in conjunction with a squadron of our allies who are expected on the Coast in the Course of the Summer ought to stimulate our exertions in forwarding the Bourbon, it is therefore to be hoped that these motives when urged by you to the governor may have the wished for effect.

I am Sir

Your Hble Servt

F LEWIS by Order

[TO THE PRESIDENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE]

May 30th. 1780

Sir

Pursuant to the Resolutions of Congress passed the 27th inst. relative to the Navy which will be transmitted to your Excellency by their Secretary this Board deem it necessary to inform your Excellency, that as a Squadron of our Allies may be shortly expected on this Coast it is proper that masts and Spars should be provided at this time as by Accidents they may be wanted hereafter. It is also highly important that the 74 gun

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

ship building at Portsmouth should be launched with all possible expedition to act (with the rest of our naval force) in conjunction with the squadron of our allies and as the Board have reason to expect that the guns materials and stores for that Ship will arrive with the Squadron, I am directed to solicit every assistance in your power by furnishing money or otherwise for preparing that Ship for launching and also for providing the Masts and Spars above mentioned.—

On this business the Board have wrote to Colonel Langdon the Agent at Portsmouth and have directed him to apply to your Excellency for Assistance, whose applications we request may be regarded as if made by this Board.

I have the Honor &c

F LEWIS by Order

[TO JOHN LANGDON]

May 30th. 1780

Sir

Enclosed are Copies of Resolves of Congress passed the 27th instant relative to the Navy Copies of which are transmitted by their secretary to his Excellency the President of New Hampshire to whom this Board have wrote requesting him to give you every aid in his power with money and otherwise towards Launching and fitting the 74 gun ship building under your direction and for procuring such Masts and Spars as are mentioned in the enclosed list which you are immediately to engage on receipt hereof. As the Board have reason to

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

expect a Squadron of our Allies on the Coast this summer, to aid which, it is highly important that our Ships of war should be in readiness and that masts and Spars should be provided in proper time, should any Accidents occasion their being wanted hereafter. As the compleating of the 74 gun Ship is a most desireable object the Board have ordered me to urge your utmost exertions in that business they having reason to expect that her guns Materials & Stores will Arrive from france with the Squadron above mentioned. You are requested to be urgent in your Solicitations to the president for Supplys of what may be wanted, and to inform the Board by every Opportunity with the result of your proceedings.

I am sir

Your Hble servant

JOHN BROWN Sec

[TO THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS]

May 30th 1780

Sir

Pursuant to the Resolutions of Congress passed the 27th inst. relative to the Navy which will be transmitted to your Excellency by their Secretary, I am directed by this Board to solicit every assistance in your power by furnishing money and otherwise towards preparing the frigate Deane and Any other Continental Vessels that may be in your state and compleating them for the Sea. This business is of immediate importance from an expectation of a Squadron of our Allies which is shortly

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

to be on our Coast, to act in conjunction with which, our Naval force should be in readiness. It is also necessary that Masts and Spars should be provided at this time to prevent any delay hereafter, Should it happen that they are wanted for our Allies or our own ships. On this business we have wrote to the Navy Board at Boston and directed them to apply to your Excellency for Assistance, whose Applications we request may be regarded as if made by this Board.

We are &c

F LEWIS by Order

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

May 30th. 1780

Gentlemen

Your letter of the 6th. instant with the Several enclosures relative to Colonel Langdons Accounts are duely received, and when examined you will receive the Boards opinion thereon.

You say Dr. Franklin writes you that Stores for fitting out two thirty Six Gun frigates were bought in france and sent Out two Years ago and are still lying in the Ware House of Monsr. Carrabasse at Cape Francois. These stores were Shipped by the Terese from Nantes April 1777 and then being under the direction of the Commercial Committee this Board received no Official information thereof till lately. Should these Stores or any part thereof, remain in the possession of Monsr. Carabasse and opportunities of conveyance offer

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

from Boston, it will be necessary that you write to that Gentleman directing him to send all such Stores by the very first opportunity either to Boston or to this port addressed to the Commissioners of the Navy Board at either place—the Board will also give similar directions from hence.—

Enclosed you have Copies of the Resolves of Congress passed the 27th instant transmitted by their Secretary to his Excellency the President of the Massachusetts Bay to whom the Board have also wrote requesting him to give you every aid in his power with Money and Otherwise, towards fitting out the Deane and any other frigates which may be in the State of Massachusetts Bay, and towards procuring such Masts and Spars as are mentioned in the enclosed list; you will engage the Masts & Spars immediately on the receipt hereof. The Board have reason to expect a squadron of our Allies on the Coast this summer, it will be expected that we give them every aid in our power, with our Ships of war & Masts &c. The latter may be Occasionally wanted by both; it will be therefore necessary that a sufficient quantity of them be provided in time, you have enclosed a list of such as may be wanted. You are requested to be urgent in your solicitations to the president for these supplies and to inform the Board by every opportunity with the result of your proceedings.

Similar applications will be sent to the states of New Hampshire and Connecticut, and it is hoped that your utmost efforts will be exerted at this Critical juncture. We have written to Colo. Langdon to procure 10 lower Masts, 3 Bowsprits, 10 lower & Mizen yards, 10 top Masts and ten topsail yards, so that you will perceive

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

that the Masts &c which you are to collect, are not to be procured in New Hampshire but at Boston.

I am Gentlemen

Your Hble servant

JOHN BROWN Sec

[TO — CARABASSE¹]

1 June 1780

Sir

By a letter received lately from his Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esqr. Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of France this Board are informed that in April 1777 Mr. Jonathan Williams Continental Agent at Nantes, did beside other Articles Ship on board the Terese I: Richard Master a large quantity of Cordage with other materials suitable for the equipment of two 36 gun frigates adressed to your self at the Cape, to be by you forwarded to some of our ports on this Continent.

Whatever Continental stores may be still remaining in your custody, we desire you would embrace every good opportunity, of Shipping them either to Boston, Philadelphia or Baltimore, addressed to the Commissioners of the Navy and that you would also furnish the Board with an Account of all stores by you from time to time received and shipped to this Continent.

I am sir

Your very hble servt.

¹ Continental agent at Cape François, Haiti.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.]

Sir

June 16th 1780

The Board are favoured with yours of the 25th Ultimo, and I am directed by them to Order that you immediately sell to the best advantage in your power one half of the Wines in your possession belonging to the public, Sales of which transmit to the Board and hold the proceeds ready for their Orders. It is not the meaning of the Board that you should delay the Sale of Prizes for their Orders. I am Sir

Your Hble servant

by Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

Sir

June 16th 1780

The Board have been favoured with your letters of the 22d & 24th Ap & 29th May. In theirs of the 12th. Ultimo you were directed to Ship on board the Deane for this port as much of the Humes Rum as the Deane could conveniently carry; but as supplies of that article has arrived from other quarters, if it be not too late they now countermand that order. Yesterday the board Obtained a Resolve of Congress for the delivery of 50 hhds sugar to the Commissioners of the Navy at Boston for the purpose of carrying on the 74 Gun ship building

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY
at Portsmouth, you are hereby directed to deliver the
Said fifty hhds accordingly—

I am sir

Your hble Servt.

JOHN BROWN

[TO JOHN LANGDON]

June 16th 1780

Sir

The Board have been favoured with your letter of the 22d. ultimo—They are fully impressed with the many difficulties you have lately laboured under by the want of supplies for carrying on the 74 Gun Ship—they have repeatedly solicited Congress on the Subject, but such has been the reduced state of the public Treasury that it is with difficulty the Army hath been hitherto supplied.

The 12th Ultimo they directed Captain John Bradford to sell sixty hhds of Rum and pay the Money immediately to the Commissioners of the Navy at Boston, and yesterday they obtained a Resolve of Congress for fifty hhds of Sugar to be delivered for the purpose of carrying on the said ship. they have sent their Orders to Captain Bradford Accordingly. The Board expect that this with what Assistance you may receive from the state will enable you to go on with that ship, and be Assured that they will embrace every favourable Opportunity of Soliciting further Supplies.

I am sir

Your Hble sert.

by Order

JOHN BROWN Secy.

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

June 16th 1780

Gentlemen

The Board have been duely favoured with your several letters of the 16th 17th & 29th May with their enclosures and have the pleasure to inform you of the arrival of the Mercury. They have not been wanting in their repeated solicitations to Congress for enabling Colo. Langdon to compleat the Hull of the 74 gun ship, but such is still the reduced state of the Treasury that it is with difficulty the army can be supplied. Yesterday the Board obtained a Resolve of Congress empowering them to direct Captain Bradford to deliver fifty hhds. Sugar for the purpose of carrying on the 74 gun Ship—Captain Bradford will receive Similar Orders this with the sixty hhds of Rum, ordered per Letter of the 12th ultimo, will enable Colo. Langdon to proceed with said ship, and we should be pleased to hear that the Carpenters are again at work on the Bourbon. The memorial of Lieut Pritchard is in the opinion of this Board inadmissable and therefore rejected. We are happy to hear that the Deane is in such forwardness, and hope she will be sufficiently manned so as to be at the Capes by the last of this Month—the Confederacys bottom will be compleatly graved this evening her masts &c all ready—the Saratoga will fall down to Rheedy Island in ten days, and we are in no doubt of both these ships being fully manned as an embargo is laid on by

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

this state, and a considerable number of Seafaring men in port—We wish to collect the Trumbull Deane Confederacy and Saratoga, at the Capes by the last of the Month to Cruize in Concert. The Board will shortly give their Opinion on Colo. Langdons Accounts.

I am Gentlemen

Your very hble Servant

by Order

JOHN BROWN Sec:

[TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED]

June 19th 1780

Sir

The Board have directed the Mercury Packet Boat to be immediately armed, manned, and Stationed in Delaware Bay, in Order to prevent the exportation of provisions, from this and the two neighbouring States pursuant to the intent of the embargo.

Should it be agreeable to your Excellency to order two or three armed Boats in the states service to act in Concert with the Mercury the[y would] prove of Singular service in Attacking the enemys Whale Boats who have lately infested the Bay.—

I have the honor to be

Your Excellencys

Obedt servant

by Order

FRANCIS LEWIS

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO GOVERNOR THOMAS JEFFERSON]

June 19th 1780

Sir

Being informed that arms and other warlike stores are preparing to be sent via the Head of Elk and Cheseapeake Bay into the State of North Carolina for its immediate defence, the board beg leave to solicit your Excellencys compliance with the enclosed requisition. The Vessels expences while upon this service, is to be defrayed by the United States. For the Accomplishment of this Service, despatch in fitting out the vessel will be highly necessary, that she may be in proper time on her station in the Bay, so as to protect the stores &c on their passage from the Head of Elk to Suffolk or other places of their destination. I have the honor to be with great respect

Your Excellencys Obedt hble servant

FRANCIS LEWIS by Order

[TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.]

June 24th 1780

Sir

The Board are favoured with your letter of the 9th inst. It is their Orders that you dispose of all the Continental Prize goods in your hands & immediately pay the proceeds to the Honble the Commissioners of the Navy Board at Boston with whom you are to settle your

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Accounts. The Board expect you will execute this Business as speedily as may be consistant with the Interest of the public.

I am Sir

Your hble Servt
JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

June 24th 1780

[Gentlemen]

The Board have Ordered me to inform you of their Orders of this date to Nathl Shaw jr. Esq. Continental Agent at New London, immediately to dispose of the Continental share of all prize goods in his hands and pay you the proceeds, and render you his Accts which you will please to examine and adjust. The Money Arising in this way the Board desire you will apply towards building the frigate Bourbon, which they are extreamly Anxious to have compleated, or at least put in such a state as that the work already done may not receive damage until funds can be had to finish her.

I am Gentn

Your hble Servant
JOHN BROWN Secy

P: S: the Board expect you will urge Mr. Shaw to be speedy in the above business and that his Accounts will be immediately settled, as well his general Accounts, as those relative to his late Prizes. They never yet have

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

had any information with regard to the settlement of the Prizes taken by Captain Talbot in the Argo Sloop, but suppose your Board have taken particular care in that respect—they request you will inform them on that head.

[TO COLONEL ABRAHAM SKINNER¹]

Philada. June 28th 1780

Sir

I am ordered by the Board to address you for the purpose of Exchanging Lieutenant Hoysted Hacker of the Navy now a prisoner on Parole lately returned to this place from Charles Town South Carolina. Lieutenant Date of the British Sloop of War Hope late a prisoner at this place and now at New York on Parole being of the same rank with Lt. Hacker, the Board request you will propose that Exchange to the British Commissary; and they are desirous to have that matter effected as soon as possible having immediate Occasion for his services. In case there should be any hesitation about exchanging Lieutenant Hacker for Lieutenant Date rather than not have Lt. Hacker exchanged we would consent to exchange Captain Hinman of The Hope now on Parole at New York for him. We would not have the last proposal made unless the first should fail.

I am sir

Your Hble servant

JOHN BROWN Secy

¹ Deputy Commissary of Prisoners at Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

Sir

June 30th 1780

We are favoured with your letter of the 5th instant with enclosures. In comparing your returns of the Continental Moiety [of] Humes Cargo with that furnished by the Crews Agent, we find your returns to be 44 Gallons Rum short of theirs, together with two Coils & one piece Rigging, twelve loaves of Sugar One bag Coffee and two & one half Casks Powder, all which we presume you have forgot to mention in your returns, which you 'l rectify and advise. [In] our letter of the 16th instant we countermanded the Order for Shipping Rum by the Deane, then depending upon Supplies from another quarter, but are disapointed, we would have you send the fifty hhds Rum if not already Shipped in the Deane vizt. twenty five only in the Deane and twenty five in the Trumbull as it is probable they will sail in Concert and thereby divide the risque.

I am Sir

Your Hble Servt.

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON]

Sir

June 30th 1780

The Board have received your letter of the 14th instant which informs them of your being obliged to put

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

into Boston to repair damages you sustained in your late Obstinate conflict with a Ship of the enemy.—

Altho this may probably give some interruption by delay in the execution of a plan in which you were to have been employed, yet the gallantry displayed in the Defence of your Ship, and the honor arising therefrom to the flag of the United States may compensate for that disappointment. From what the Commissioners of the Navy Board writes, there is reason to expect that your Ship may be here in proper season, and in Company with the Deane—they rely upon your exertions in speedily refitting your Ship.

I am sir

Your hble sert.

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

June 30th. 1780

Gentlemen

We have before us your Letters of the 5th. & 12th. instant with the enclosures in answer to the former the board observe that altho there may be a propriety in their orders going through the Navy Boards yet it will so happen some times that delay might be occasioned by that etiquette, you may rely upon it that the Board of Admiralty is disposed strongly to avoid confusion in business, and every thing that should have the most distant tendency to cast contempt on the Navy Boards, or to place them in a ridiculous light. The proposal you

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made to the Marine Committee to give an Order to the director of the Hospital in Boston to receive and provide for Sick and wounded Seamen belonging to the Navy, was æconomical and judicious and ought to have been attended to Seasonably; but better late than never is a good adage, and the Board cannot conceive that this mode tho lately adopted can place you in a ridiculous light. You did what appeared [to] you to be right; you are not censurable, if any body is to blame it is the Marine Committee and we are sorry that Dr. Gardner should be a Sufferer. We are surprized at Governor Greens detaining the Mercury, but we are not enough as yet acquainted with his veiws in doing it to write to him on the subject.

In answer to your last letter, the Board are sorry to find that you meet with so much difficulty in Manning the Deane, however they expect that with the Assistance of Government you will soon be able to effect it. The success she met with in her late Cruize we should have thought would have induced Seamen to have entered immediately, as Seamen as well as Soldiers are fond of serving under fortunate Officers. It is of great importance that our Ships should be ready as soon as possible to cruize or co-operate with the fleet of France expected here. We are glad to find that there is a sufficiency of Masts & Spars in Boston, and a considerable number of Spars in Connecticut River and do not entertain the least doubt of your vigourous exertions to answer our expectations. With regard to the Bourbon we hope as you are likely to receive a supply of Money from the sales of Prize Wine &c in New London that thereby and with such Assistance as you may receive from the Gov-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

erment of Connecticut the building of that Ship will go on. The Guns for her you must Contract with the owners of the furnace in Providence for them on the best terms you can provided they can furnish them Seasonably.

We have just received yours of the 14th instant with its enclosure from Captain James Nicholson. It gives us great satisfaction to find that he behaved with so much gallantry, and dont doubt but that his bravery will excite seamen to enlist with him so that he may soon have a full Complement of men. We should be glad to have the Trumbull fitted so as to Sail in Company with the Deane for this place if it can be done without detaining either of them long.—

I am Sirs

Your hble servant

JOHN BROWN Sec:

[TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.]

July 5th 1780

Sir

I am ordered by the Board to advise you that I have this day drawn upon you at ten days Sight in favour of Mr. Thomas Mumford of New-London for one hundred thousand Continental Dollars being for the like Sum paid the Board at this place by his son Mr. Giles Mumford which you will duly honor and charge the Board with the same.

I am sir &c

by Order

J BROWN Secy

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OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

July 7th 1780

Gentlemen

Congress having resolved that this Board should take the most effectual means in their power for Obtaining from time to time certain intelligence of the arrival of the enemys Ships of war into any port or ports of North America the number of their Guns and the condition they may be in together with such movements as they may make from one port to another.

You are therefore directed to procure from time to time intelligence relative to the enemys Ships in Halifax in Penobscot at Newfound Land and at Canada. You are also upon the arrival of any vessels from the West Indias or any part of North America, to enquire of the Captains respecting the enemys Ships in the quarter from whence they come and by the earliest Opportunitys transmit the same to this Board. Mr. Langdon the Continental Agent in Portsmouth New Hampshire may perhaps from his situation be able to furnish you with an Account of the State of the enemys Ships of war in the places mentioned you will therefore write to him on this subject—It hath been hinted to us that intelligence may probably be obtained through General Wadsworth Commander of the state forces at or near Falmouth and from Colo. Allen at Machias, you will therefore correspond with them on this subject. Per-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

haps the Council may some times grant permits to persons to go to Halifax, it may not be improper for your board to desire them to inform you when any permit is granted, and you may give the person who has it suitable verbal instructions.—

If you should obtain any intelligence of such importance as you shall judge deserving the expence of an Express you will employ one for the purpose of giving us the earliest notice of it—

We are so embarrassed for the want of Money to fit out the Confederacy that we have Ordered Mr. Shaw to transmit us 200,000 Dollars of the Money Arising from the sale of the Wines and other prize goods the whole of which we had Ordered to be remitted to you.

Pressed on all sides with difficulties the most vigorous exertions only can relieve us—we entertain not the least doubt of your most strenuous exertions to give despatch to the Trumbull & Deane. We have this moment received yours of the 19th June, If it will not occasion too great a delay of the Deane we could wish that they might sail in Concert to the Delaware, for in all probabillity more than one of the enemys frigates may be looking out for the expected french fleet.

When you are straitned for Money you will apply to the State Agreeably to our direction given you in conformity of the resolution of Congress.—

I am Gentn

Your Hble servant

J BROWN Secy

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO GENERAL DAVID FORMAN]

July 7th 1780

Sir

The Board of Admiralty being particularly directed by Congress to obtain the earliest intelligence of the arrival of any Ships of war in or near the port of New York; and you sir being recommended to them as a Gentleman who could procure us the best information in this matter, we would be much Obligated to you if you would employ some suitable person to Observe the motions of the enemys Ships of war as they go in and out to and from New York from time to time and transmit to us an Account of the number of their Guns the condition they may be in together with their movements, and also what number of Ships of war are in New York according to the best account he can get. Any reasonable expence will be paid by the Board. As it may be in your power to furnish them from time to time with intelligence on these Subjects they would wish to correspond with you. The Board are informed that an excellent Spy Glass was sent to your Quarter by the Navy Board last year for the purpose of Observing the Motions of the enemys Ships from the Highlands which they suppose is still thereabouts.

I am Sir

Your Hble servt

J BROWN

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.]

July 7th 1780

Sir

Congress having resolved that this Board should take the most effectual means in their power for obtaining from time to time certain intelligence of the arrival of the enemys ships of war into any port or ports of North America, the number of their Guns and the condition they may be in together with such movements as they make from One port to another; and particularly to obtain the earliest intelligence of the arrival of any ships of war in or near the port of New York, You are therefore directed to obtain the best information in your power on this subject, particularly with regard to that part which respects the enemys ships at or near the port of New York, and transmit the same from time to time by the Post, unless you should have an earlier opportunity by some good private hand. You will also collect information from Captains of Vessels from the West Indies or any part of North America relative to the proposed subjects of intelligence, and transmit the same likewise to this Board. As it is of the utmost importance more especially at this juncture that speedy & Accurate intelligence should be had of the movements of the enemy by Sea as well as by Land. We desire your attention to this matter.—We refer you to our letter of the 24th. June with regard to the sale of the Wines &c and desire that you would use all possible dispatch in this business, but instead of remitting the whole

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Amount of the Sales thereof to the Navy Board in the Eastern Department as you was therein directed you are now required to send us immediately by a safe hand two hundred Thousand Dollars, our expected supplies having failed us it will be impossible to fit out the Confederacy an object of the greatest importance unless we are immediately furnished with that sum.—

I am Sir

Your hble servant

by Order

J BROWN Secy

[TO RICHARD ELLIS¹]

July 7th 1780

Sir

We are duly favoured with your letter of the 20th April addressed to the Honble Commercial Committee who have referred your letter to this Board for an Answer.

Don Francisco Rendon has exhibited your list of the property of Captain Faribault put into your hands wherein is specified a number of Dollars which we suppose to be spanish, together with a silver watch not included in the gross Sales of the Other Articles amounting to four hundred and odd Continental Dollars. We find that Captain Faribaults private adventure of Rum sugar & Coffee was taken out by the Privateers people before his Vessel was recaptured, so

¹ Continental agent, Newbern, North Carolina.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

that he had no property in the Cargo libelled in your Admiralty Courts.

You will be pleased to remit all the Money in your hands both Specie & Continental belonging to Captain Faribault together with his Watch if not Sold to Mr. Francis Lewis by the first safe Opportunity for Philadelphia agreeable to the enclosed letter from Mr. Rendon.

We find by yours of the 20th April that the Canvas shrouds &c belonging to the United States are still at Wilmington. Being informed that the navigation to Wilmington is hazardous the Board have determined to send a Continental Armed packet Boat to Newbern to receive the Canvass shrouds &c and bring them to this City; we therefore desire you would immediately upon receipt of this, order the said Canvass and shrouds to be conveyed from Wilmington to Newbern by an inland navigation, which we are informed may be done, so as not to retard the Packet on her Arrival at Newbern. Congress having resolved that this board should take the most effectual means in their power for Obtaining from time to time certain intelligence of the Arrival of the enemys Ships of war into any Port or Ports of North America, the Number of their Guns & the condition they may be in, together with such movements [as] they may make from One port to Another, that so Congress may be duely and exactly informed of the Naval strength and Situation of the enemy and be Able to communicate such intelligence to our Ally (whose fleets are expected on our Coasts) as the common welfare shall require.

Pursuant thereto you are directed to communicate to

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY
this Board by the earliest opportunity all such intelligence touching the premisses as may come to your knowledge. I am Sir

Your Hble Servt.
J BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

July 10th 1780

Gentlemen

We have before us yours of the 26th June—We have written several Letters to you since the 19th ultimo which before this you will have received. We approve of your receiving 50 bolts of Duck for the Trumbull, and called upon Mr. Bradford to reserve as much in His hands as may be necessary for the Bourbon. We have included canvas with the other stores we have written to france for to equip the 74 Gun Ship, but when it will arrive we know not. The officers of the ships Captured at Charles Town have no right to expect any thing more than their pay, By the Resolution of Congress of the 20th March 1778 until they are exchanged. What provision may be made for them hereafter, and others in the like unfortunate circumstances we cannot say. At present we cannot give any directions contrary to the resolutions of Congress, however hard we may think it is that those Officers under their peculiar circumstances should receive only their pay. We would not have you settle the Accounts of any of those officers until you shall have received orders

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from us. It will be some time before Mr. Livingstons Accts. the Continental Agent at Charles Town which may be connected with their Accounts are examined, and until the money advanced to those of them who have been here shall be transmitted to you by the Navy Board in this Department.¹ We would have you urge the Deputy Commissary General of Prisoners to an exchange of the commissioned and warrant officers of the Ships captured at Charles Town as soon as possible. —We are glad to find that the two frigates are like to be [ready for sea] in a week or two, are pleased with your vigorous exertions & are

Gentlemen

Your Hble servts

[TO GEORGE WASHINGTON]

11th July 1780

Sir

The Board have been duly honored with your Excellencys letter of the 29th May by Captain Vandyke which they deferred answering 'till an opportunity offered for carrying your request into effect, they have now the pleasure to inform your Excellency that Captain Vandyke is appointed to command the Marines on board the Continental Ship Saratoga.—

May 6th the Board by direction of Congress, sent to your Excellency two pipes of Maderia Wine should be glad to know if they have been received.—On the 18th

¹ The meaning of this sentence is not clear.

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instant Congress directed the Board to deliver Colo. Blaine Commissary General of Purchases two pipes of Maderia with a quantity of french Wine for your Excellencys use, we have accordingly delivered One pipe and two hhds Maderia, and Colo. Blaine has undertaken to procure the french Wine.—

I have the honor to be

Your Excellencys

Obedt Servant

F LEWIS per Order

[TO JOHN BRADFORD]

July 11th. 1780

Sir

In our letter of the 10th. december last, we informed you the following words: “Among other Instructions this Board is directed immediately to write to the several continental agents urging them to transmit Accurate Accounts up to the 31st. of this Month of all transactions relative to the Navy within their respective Districts to which a due regard is expected.”—

In yours of the 14th February last you write us that you are closely engaged in getting your Accounts ready, *no time shall be lost &c &c.* On the 22d March last you beg that the Honble Board may not think you *unmindful of their Orders* respecting forwarding your Accounts, that no time has been lost since receiving our Orders, and that you should soon complete them.

Near five Months have elapsed since it seems you were *closely engaged* in getting your Accounts ready,

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and almost four Months since you informed us that they should be *soon completed*. What shall we say to this?—We are compelled to tell you, that notwithstanding our repeated Orders, & your declarations, a due respect hath not been paid to them. We must peremptorily insist that your Accounts be immediately completed to the first of this Month and transmitted to us.—Otherwise we shall lay the matter before Congress and you must abide the consequences.

I am Sir

Your Hble Sert.

F LEWIS by Order

[TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.]

July 18th 1780

Sir

In our last of the 7th. of July we referred you to our letter of the 24th June, and desired that you would use all possible despatch in selling the Wine, &c, and instead of remitting the whole amount of the Sales thereof to the Navy Board in the Eastern Department as you was in our letter of the 24th June directed to send us immediately by a safe hand two hundred thousand Dollars as it would be impossible to fit out the Confederacy unless we were immediately furnished with Money. The Arrival of the French Fleet hath made it absolutely necessary that we should complete the Confederacy with all possible dispatch in order to her Co-Operating with them; and without we receive that sum instead of proceeding in the slow manner we are now obliged to

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

do for want of Cash, we shall soon be at a dead stand, therefore you will excuse our repeating our directions and urging you to the swiftest dispatch in this most important business.

I am Sir

Your hble servant

FRANCIS LEWIS by Order

[TO JOHN LANGDON]

July 21. 1780

Sir

We received yours of the 24th. June Ultimo by the last Post, when you wrote it our letter of the 16th June could not have reached you. you will find by that letter that provisions is made for your carrying on the 74 Gun ship with vigour. The Navy Board in the Eastern Department in their letter of the 28th write thus. "We are just now honored with your favour of the 16th inst. We shall now have it in our power to enable Colo. Langdon to proceed with vigour in completing the Hull of the 74 if we can get coal and Iron—none has yet arrived from Virginia nor is any at present to be purchased here. The Schooner Hanah & Molly is now refitted and we propose to send her to James River in Virginia for a load of Coal. We wish you to direct the Agent there to load her with that or other articles and give her dispatch." We have written to the Agent in Virginia accordingly and will endeavour if the Navy Board cannot procure Iron in your, to procure some in this quarter.—

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It is of the last importance that the 74 should be launched as soon as possible, there is a prospect of her being rigged & gunned from the french fleet that is arrived at Rhode Island, and if she could be rigged and built so as to co-operate with that fleet, the addition of such a Ship would give a decided superiority. The Minister of France urges us to cause the Hull of her to be compleated with all possible expedition, and our wishes and we are sure your inclination coincide with his solicitations. Let we beseech you as many men be employed in this business as can work to advantage and every nerve be exerted to complete the Hull of the 74 with all possible dispatch. We shall be glad to hear how you proceed & are Sir

Your hble servants

[TO RICHARD ELLIS]

July 21. 1780

Sir

In our letter of the 7th instant to which be pleased to advert, among other things we wrote you to cause the Canvass, Shrouds &c, belonging to the United States to be conveyed to Newbern and that we should send a Continental Armed Packet Boat to receive and bring them to this place. That packet we have since Ordered an other way. We are informed that the schooner Eagle under the command of Lieutenant House and in the service of these States was bound from Martinico to some port in the Southern part of North Carolina. We would have you immediately lodge letters in all these

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ports directed to Lieutenant House, enclosing a Copy of this letter and ordering him to repair to Newbern with the Eagle there to take on board these Articles and bring them to this place. If the Canvas, Shrouds &c should not be sufficient to load her, you will apply to your Governor for a permit to take on board as much Rice & Pork of the first quality for the use of the Navy of these States as you shall judge sufficient to complete her lading, these articles being very much wanted. The Money in your hand belonging to the Commercial Committee you may apply to this purpose.—

I am Sir

Your Hble servt
by Order
F LEWIS

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

August 4th 1780.

Gentlemen

We have before us your letters of the 10th & 13th of July last. We should be glad to be informēd what part of the Rum and sugar, appropriated to the 74, hath been Applied to the fitting out the Trumbull & Deane, in Order if it should be tho't necessary, that we may apply to Congress that the same quantity may be replaced. In answer to that part of your letter of the 10th respecting Pritchards Memorial &c &c, the Board are of opinion that it is according to the Mode prescribed by Congress for dividing the shares of Prizes the Officers are formed

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into classes &c so in case a prize should be taken and previous thereto a vacancy should happen in either of those Classes by death or otherwise, the proper share should be allotted to such vacancy and divided among the Officers & Crew agreeably to said mode for dividing prize Shares.

We should be glad to know how long Mr. Henderson has served as Paymaster to the Navy in your Department.

With regard to William & John Hackets memorial, we do not choose to do any thing further in that matter.

We are sensible that the expences of fitting out vessels run excessively high, and should rejoice was it in our power to furnish you with supplies equal to your wishes; and this would have been the case had not Congress by the exigencies of the army been compelled to divert the Monies arising from the Sales of Prize goods, and prize goods themselves from their proper channel, as it is, we must do as well as we can, never in the least doubting but that the Strictest frugality & Œconomy as well as the greatest Industry hath been and will be practised by your Board.

You are informed that the British fleet is Cruizing off Block Island, and we suppose some of their light Ships farther to the Southward, we would therefore have you direct the Captains of the frigates to give Nantucket Shoals a good berth and keep well to the Southward to avoid them if they should not have sailed before you receive this. A reinforcement of five or Six Ships of war with a Number of Transports with Troops are daily expected from France. It is of great importance that they should be informed of the station of the

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

British fleet therefore, if our Frigates should not have sailed you will further direct the Commanders of them to keep a good look out and if they should chance to see that fleet in their Route to speake with them and give them that and any other necessary information. It is thought that this reinforcement will fall in with the land to the Southward and run along the Coast to R. Island.

French ships may be distinguished not only by their build but by the Transports which will Accompany them.

We are Gentlemen
Your Hble servants

[TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM PICKLES]

August 11th 1780

Sir

The Board of Admiralty having appointed you to command the Continental Packet Mercury, you are hereby ordered to proceed with all possible dispatch north about for Amsterdam in the United Provinces of the Netherlands, where, when you arrive, you are to receive on board the Mercury all such articles as the Honble Henry Laurens shall by himself or his Agents order to be put on board, when the Mercury is completely laden, you are to proceed on your return with the vessel for any safe port on the coast of North America giving Philadelphia, Chesepeake Bay, or Egg Har-

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bour the preference and give this Board immediate notice of your arrival.—

You will make all dispatch in your power while in Amsterdam so that you may arrive on this Coast before the Winter sets in.

You are at liberty to take passengers on your homeward bound voyage, but no Articles but such as each of them may bring in a Trunk of a midling size, and no private property for any person, but such as Mr. Laurens may direct you to receive, and be governed by his Orders during your voyage. Mr. Laurens will advance you for your Crew the Monies we have Agreed shall be paid them at Amsterdam Agreeable to your Shipping bill. The Board desire you will make Mr. Laurens passage as comfortable as possible & that you will at all times exercise Economy and dispatch.—

Wishing you a prosperous voyage I am Sir

Your Hble servant

by Order

JOHN BROWN Sec

[TO HENRY LAURENS¹]

Augt. 11th 1780

Sir

You will receive with this a bill of Exchange on John Jay Esq. for one thousand Pounds sterling out of which you will be pleased to deliver to Captain Pickles the

¹ United States minister to Holland.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

amount of the Sum specified in his Shipping bill which we have agreed shall be paid him in Amsterdam and also Two hundred and forty dollars which we have agreed shall be advanced him, and five dollars and One third of a dollar per week for his Subsistence while in Amsterdam, the remainder you will lay out in purchasing the Articles mentioned in the enclosed List. If the bill should not be sufficient for these purposes, you are desired to make use of your Credit for supplying the deficiency as all the articles are exceedingly wanted. We wish you to insure the Mercury and her Cargo on the best terms you can to the first port in the United States of America, and give her all the dispatch in your power. We heartily wish you a safe and pleasant passage to the place of your destination and are Sir

Your most hble servts.

FRANCIS LEWIS per Order

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON¹]

August 11th. 1780

Sir

You are hereby directed to proceed to Sea on a Cruize taking under your Convoy the Mercury Packet and keeping company with her until you shall have given her a good Offing, you are then to cruize along and off this Coast, taking, sinking burning and destroying all the ships and vessels of the enemy you may meet with, and

¹ Commander of the frigate Trumbull.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

all such prizes as you may take & send into this port are to be directed to the care of the Board of Admiralty, the prizes which you may be Obligated through necessity to send into other Ports you are to direct to the care of the Continental Agent of the district. You are always to Observe that you are to give the preference to this port as a place to which you are to direct your prizes when winds, weather and other circumstances will admit of it without being more hazardous than elsewhere. The Deane and Saratoga will sail in company with you and under your Orders, you will therefore prepare & give to the Captains or commanding Officer of each of those Ships such instructions as may be necessary for regulating the Cruize, In the course of which you are to keep a good look-out for the French Fleet which is expected daily on the coast, and giving the commanding officer thereof every information respecting the number & Situation of the British fleet & every assistance they may require. You are to come into the Capes of Delaware at the expiration of a fortnight after sailing and give us advice immediately of your Arrival the State & condition of your ships and their Stores and of such occurrences as you may have met with. You will apply to Colo. Henry Fisher of Lewis Town who will forward your dispatches.

Previous to your sailing you are to put the Lead & Rum shipped in the Trumbull & Deane on board the continental schooner which we have ordered down the River to receive the same, and by the captain of her give us such information respecting your ships and what hath taken place during your passage as you may have to communicate.

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When you shall return to the Capes you will cause the Anchor of the Confederacy, with the position of which Captain Young will acquaint you, to be swept for and taken up if possible.—

You will also when at the Capes employ some of your Crew in catching Fish which will Afford a healthful variety of food to them and save your flesh Provisions. You are to see that the Ships company of the little fleet under your command frequently are disciplined in the exercise of the great Guns, and Small Arms to render them more expert in time of Battle, & that Œconomy, frugality, neatness and good Order are punctually observed. We wish you success and are with great respect

Your very Hble Servant

[TO CAPTAIN JOHN YOUNG]

August 11th. 1780

Sir

You being appointed to the command of the Ship Saratoga are hereby Ordered to fall down the River Delaware and taking the Mercury Packet under your Convoy procede to Sea and give her as good an Offing as you can consistent with your returning to the Capes in four or five days; provided the Trumbull & Deane should not have arrived, but in that case you are to deliver the letter given you herewith to Captain Nicholson of the Trumbull and pursue such directions as you shall receive from him. You are immediately to make regulations for quartering your officers and men,

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

distributing them to the great Guns, small Arms, rigging &c, and discipline the ships company frequently in the exercise of the great Guns and small Arms to render them more expert in time of Battle. You are to take all possible care of your powder room, and Cables, and to prevent accidents from fire.

You are to take good care of the Ships Stores and Provisions and see that there be no misapplication or waste thereof, and when at the Capes catch all the fish you can, which will afford a healthful variety of food to your Crew, & save your flesh Provisions. In a word you are directed to observe frugality in the expenditure of Stores and provisions, preserve good Order and discipline and exercise your men frequently and keep a healthful and clean ship, & do every thing in your power becoming the duty character and honor of a commander of a Ship belonging to the United States of America. We are Sir

Your very Hble Servants
by Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

P: S: Should you not meet with the Deane & Trumbull in the River or before your return after convoying the Mercury, you are to continue at the Capes until those Ships arrive, and while there endeavour to take up the Anchor belonging to the Confederacy the situation of which you are acquainted with. A Continental schooner is ordered down the River for the purpose of bringing up some Rum, which is on board the two frigates and is ordered to remain at Rheedy Island until the frigates shall come there.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL NICHOLSON¹]

August 11th. 1780

Sir

You are to procede to sea in company with the Ship Trumbull on a Cruize and observe during the same all such Orders, Directions and Signals as shall be from time to time given you by Captain James Nicholson who is your Senior & commanding Officer until you shall receive other Orders from this Board. We wish you a successful cruize and are sir

Your very Hble servants
by Order

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.]

August 11th 1780

Sir

Yours of the 26th ultimo is received in which you mention your payment of our bill in favour of Thomas Mumford Esqr. for One hundred Thousand dollars. The remittance of two hundred thousand Dollars requested in ours of the 7th. July is absolutely necessary for the [use] of this Board and must be made in preference to any demand of the Navy Board in the Eastern Department as the business of fitting out the Ships on

¹ Commander of the ship Deane.

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hand is of more pressing necessity than that of building new. You will therefore use your best efforts to remit the sums required with the greatest dispatch using your Prudence in disposing of the Unions Cargo to the best advantage you can, attending to the Public Interest in referring or disposing of the Wine after raising the sum above mentioned. We shall rely on your care to obtain & communicate such intelligence as you shall judge to be of importance to this Board. We are sir

Your very Hble Servant

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

August 11th. 1780

Gentlemen

We have before us your letters of the 19th & 24th July and in answer to the first would observe that we are sorry the Dean is so poorly manned. As far as we can recollect there hath always been a difficulty in manning that Ship, she we are informed is a good ship and hath not been unsuccessful we should be loth to think that this is owing to any improper conduct in the Captain.

We shall endeavour to procure some good Virginia Tobacco, but cannot promise any other articles as a remittance to Mr. Gardoqui, your State is a proper place in which to collect Fish. We sent his letter to Congress, but imagine that his Account of Clintons letter was taken from the spurious letter which was published at Fish Kill some time ago.

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Enclosed is a copy of a resolution of Congress on Mr. Mitchells petition. In answer to the latter we remark it is of importance that the reinforcement expected from France should be advertised of the situation of the British fleet, and therefore we think it was adviseable for the Council of your State to send out some fast sailing vessels for that purpose, Methods have been taken here also for that purpose.

We are pleased with your directions to the Captains of the Trumbull & Deane to look out attentively for the expected fleet for our Allies, and the dispatches which hath been given to the Trumbull, you will find by our last letter that we had desired you to give such directions. By your letters we expect our frigates here daily. Immediately on their Arrival we shall send them out on a Cruize along the Coast. We approve of the Prisoners being sent to Hallifax for two reasons; first because it will take some time before they can join the enemys fleet, and because you will perhaps have an Opportunity to get the information from thence which we have asked from you. We are Gentlemen

Your very Hble Servants
by Order

JOHN BROWN Sec:

[TO GEORGE WASHINGTON]

August 14th. 1780

Sir

We have been favoured with your Excellencys letter dated the 16th. instant. In answer thereto We beg leave

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

to inform you that the Continental Armed Ship Saratoga John Young Commander went down the River yesterday in Order to Convoy the Honble Henry Laurens Esq in the Mercury Packet a few Leagues to sea, then to return within the Capes, but should the Trumbull & Deane frigates be arrived at the Capes (which is hourly expected) before her Sailing, then Captain Young is directed to join those frigates and to deliver our Orders to James Nicholson Esq Senior Captain, who is directed to cruize along this Coast with the Three Ships so as to endeavour to fall in with the second Division of the French Squadron and to give the commanding officers intelligence of the situation of the enemys fleet and to return to the Capes in fourteen days and there wait for further orders. Captain Young hath a letter from the Minister of France to the commanding officer of the Second Division. We are Sir

Your very Hble Servants

FRANCIS LEWIS

per Order

[TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS]

August 14th 1780

Sir

Enclosed is a Letter which the Board have received from General Washington and their answer thereto. By the latter Congress will become Acquainted with the Orders which the board have given to the Ships, and how far they co-incide with what seems to be the

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wish of the Commander in Chief. We trust they will not be disagreeable to Congress. Whether it was the intention that the General should take the direction of our little fleets before they had formed a junction with the fleet of our Ally we leave with Congress to determine; but until that shall become practicable we think it would be most conducive to the Public interest, and most satisfactory to the Officers and men that they should be employed in cruizing as we have directed. Congress will be pleased to observe that they are to return in fourteen days to the Capes. It was with this view that they might be at hand and ready to receive and execute such Orders as might be given to them.—

It is with great concern that we inform Congress that it is impossible to proceed with any celerity in fitting the Confederacy for sea. We have strained our Credit to the greatest stretch, and are Afraid that the Cable which is making for the Confederacy will not be delivered to us unless we can furnish Money to discharge part at least of the great debt which we owe to the Rope Maker, beside this we are indebted to others—Provisions &c are wanted for the ship and a large sum must be advanced to induce men to enlist on board of her, and all the Money we have yet received from our warrant on the Treasury is only 7000 Dollars. To avoid Censure and hoping that Congress may be able to find out ways and means to fit out this fine frigate we trouble you with this melancholy picture. We are

Sir

Your Obedt Servants
by Order

F LEWIS

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

[TO CAPTAIN JOHN YOUNG]

August 19th 1780

Sir

Notwithstanding the former orders given you by this Board, you are immediately upon the receipt of this to proceed to Sea with the Ship *Saratoga* and Steer a South East course, as soon as you shall be out of sight of Land you are to Open the outward cover of the Sealed Packet and follow the Instructions therein given by the Committee of Conference by virtue of a resolution of Congress. As soon as you shall have executed the same if it should not be out of your way to go to Hispaniola you are hereby directed to call upon Mr. Carabasse merchant in Cape François deliver him the enclosed letter and receive of him on board the *Saratoga* such of the woolen Cloths, linnens, canvass, cordage and other Articles which he hath in his hands belonging to these states, and the *Saratoga* can conveniently bring. In order that you may bring a considerable quantity of those Articles, & as you are to return immediately from thence to this port, you can shake a number of your water Casks which will give the more room for them. If after receiving on board what you can, there should be a sufficient quantity remaining to make it worth the expence to freight or hire a fast sailing vessel to bring them to this place we have desired Mr. Carabasse to freight or hire one for that purpose which you are to take under your Convoy. This direction with regard to your taking in Goods is given upon a Supposition

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that the Orders of the Committee will carry you to or near Hispaniola for your destination is to us a profound Secret. If when you have executed the Orders of the Committee it should be out of your way to procede to Hispaniola you will then return to this Port after cruizing so long as your Provisions will last.

You will punctually execute the Orders of the Committee, and if you go to Hispaniola, make all possible dispatch in taking in the goods which shall be delivered you by Mr. Carabasse and in expediting the Vessels he may charter for the purpose before mentioned.—

We are Sir

Your Hble servants

by Order

J BROWN Secy

[TO — CARABASSE]

August 19th 1780

Sir

The enclosed is a duplicate of our letter of the 1st of June, since which we have been favoured with a Copy of your letter of the 18th. May to the Chevalier de la Luzerne Minister of France whereby we are informed, that you had then in your care a considerable quantity of Stores sent to your address by Messrs. Rodrigue Hortaliez & Co. for Account of these United States. You will receive this by the Continental Armed Ship Saratoga John Young Esqr. Commander whom we have purposely Ordered to the Cape for those Stores, which we desire you would cause to be Shipped on the said

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Ship and in case the quantity should be more than the Saratoga can conveniently carry to charter a fast sailing Vessel to take in the remainder or Ship the same on any good Vessel on freight in either case to proceed under convoy of the Saratoga for this Port.—

We most earnestly entreat you to give the Saratoga all possible dispatch in your power, as the Stores are at this time very much wanted.

We are Sir

Your very Hble Servants

FRS LEWIS

by Order

[TO MAJOR HENRY FISHER¹]

Sir

August 19th 1780

It is of much importance to the United States that the enclosed Packet be immediately delivered to Captain John Young of the Continental Ship Saratoga, which will be at the Capes about the time this reaches your hands. The Board request that you take charge of the same and safely deliver it to Captain Young immediately upon his first Appearance at the Capes delivering it your self. Your well known Zeal for your Country renders it unnecessary to say more than that the Speedy and safe delivery of those dispatches is of great importance to the Public which the Board are persuaded will be a sufficient inducement for you to keep a Special look out for the Saratoga. This Letter goes by

¹ Of Lewes, Delaware, near Cape Henlopen.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Express by whose return be pleased [to] acknowledge the receipt of it, and any expences which may Accrue on the delivery of the enclosed dispatches will be punctually paid at this Office to you or your Order.

I am Sir

Your very Obed Hble sert.

by Order

J BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF ISSUES]

August 21. 1780

Sir

The Board of Admiralty hereby inform the Commissary General of Issues that 62,820 weight of Bread, and 13260 weight of Flour are wanted for the frigates in this Port. That the Trumbull & Deane will be ready for to procede to Sea in a few days if those articles should be supplied; and as it is of the last importance that these Ships should be immediately at Sea, we therefore press you most earnestly to furnish the Bread and Flour with all possible despatch. The Board wish to have an answer in writing to this application and are with great respect

Your Hble Servants.—

[TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.]

August 22d 1780

Sir

We have your letter of the 10th. instant by which we learn that the Sales of the Wines are yet at a Stand.

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The want of money for fitting and manning three frigates now in this port is so pressing that we are necessitated to direct you to sell the Wines for the best price you can procure without limitation, and transmit 200,000 Dollars immediately by a careful purpose messenger, for without a Speedy supply of the above sum, in continental money a fair opportunity of rendering Singular Services to the United States will be lost.

We rely on your exertions in effecting this business and are sir

Your very Hble servants
by Order

JOHN BROWN Sec:

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

August 22d. 1780

Sir

We received yours of the 24th of last Month the 7th instant since which the Deane & Trumbull have Arrived safely in the River. They came up to Chester last wednesday. The Trumbull wants so much small rigging so many blocks &c, and the Deane too wants so many small Articles, that for want of money we shall not be able to get them to Sea so soon as we could wish. They saw nothing on their passage but a little schooner with fruit from Newprovidence which they took. We would have you in future when any continental Vessels sail from your to this port, or are ordered to finish her Cruize to send the Navy Board a copy of the return of

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Provisions and stores at the time of sailing, whereby we shall be able to judge, whether there hath been any waste in the expenditure of them how far they were supplied and also to transmit muster Rolls of the Ships Crew and the sums advanced.

Inclosed is a resolution of Congress intended to be explanatory of the resolution we transmitted to you respecting the seizure of Mr. Mitchell's vessel and Cargo; but instead of being explanatory of what in our Opinion needed no explanation the resolution itself is ambiguous.

We are informed by a member of Congress that this last resolution originally concluded with a motion that the Board of Admiralty should be directed to Order the prosecution to be dropped but the motion was divided Congress not chusing to pass any direct resolution on the matter. The Delegates of your state, we are told are the fathers of this last resolution. The first was the child of this Board. Your two letters of the 7th August came to hand this day. We are glad to hear that the Active hath arrived. The articles imported in her are all of them much wanted. We would have you keep them all until you shall receive Orders from us respecting them. We should be glad to know the Tonnage of the Active and how many hhds of Tobacco she can take in.

We should be sorry that there should be any difference between the Council of your state and you. It seems to us that offended at your directing the vessel and cargo of Mitchell who had a flag of truce from them to be Seized, they are determined to give you tit for tat. We wish that this may not be the case and that a good

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understanding may subsist between them and you, as by this means the general Interest may be best promotted.

We are informed that your board have allowed rations to some of the Officers who were captured at Charles Town until they were exchanged. If this should be the case upon the same principle you may allow it to others. We are clear that by the resolution of the 20th. March 1778, such Officers of the Navy as are or may be taken by the enemy are not to be allowed rations while under Parole; but only while they are in a State of Captivity or in the enemys possession which are to be considered as synonymous expressions. As you may not have the resolution by you we now enclose it.—

The case of officers employed as the officers of the Frigates at Charles Town were, is hard indeed, and upon some of their Accounts for board after their captivity being presented to Congress, they directed this Board to report some regulations on this subject which we have in contemplation.

I am Gentlemen

Your very Hble Servant

JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO JOHN HOLKER¹]

August 28th 1780

Sir

The necessity there is for fitting with all possible dispatch three of the Continental frigates now in this port which are destined to co-operate with the fleet of his

¹ Consul-General of France at Philadelphia.

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most christian Majesty, occasions the Board to apply for your assistance in furnishing a supply of Bread for the use of those frigates. About 60,000 lbs. weight of Bread will be wanted for the above purpose. If you can Spare that quantity the board will esteem it a favour and take especial care to repay the same as soon as possible in Bread of the like quality. The Board request an Answer to this proposition.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your very Hble Sert.

JOHN BROWN Sec

P: S: The damaged Bread which you mentioned has been veiwed by the Commissioners of the Navy Board and is too far gone to be used on board our Ships. The Board further request you will lend them 20 bbls of Flour which they will repay with the Bread.

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON]

August 28th 1780

Sir

The Board of Admiralty have to inform you that the Chevalier De Terney commander of the french Squadron stationed on these Coasts hath adopted the present Signals of the Navy of these States to be observed between the Vessels of the most Christian King and those of these States with this only difference that those who have not an American flag will hoist a Dutch one in the room of it at the same Mast.

You will communicate the above to Captain Samuel

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Nicholson of the Deane frigate and to any other continental Vessels of war you may meet with, and see that these signals are punctually regarded. I am sir

Your very hble Servant

JOHN BROWN Sec:

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON]

August 29th. 1780

Sir

You are hereby directed to proceed to Sea immediately and Cruize upon this Coast for three weeks off Sandy Hook, Charles Town South Carolina, or any other part of the Coast which you may judge will be most suitable for annoying the trade of the enemy, taking, Sinking, burning and destroying all the Ships and Vessels of the enemy you may meet with. All such Prizes as you may take and send into this Port are to be directed to the Board of Admiralty—the Prizes which you may be obliged through necessity to send into other ports, you are to direct to the care of the Continental Agent of the district. You are always to observe that you are to order your Prizes to this port in preference to any other when winds weather and other circumstances will admit of it, unless it should be more hazardous than to go elsewhere. The Dean will sail in company with you and under your Orders, you will therefore prepare and give to the Captain or commanding Officer of that Ship such Instructions as may be necessary for regulating the Cruise in the course of which you are to keep a good look out for the second Division of the French

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fleet which is daily expected on this Coast, and give the commanding Officer thereof every information respecting the number and situation of the British fleet off Rhode Island in your power, and every assistance he may require.

At the expiration of your cruize you are to return to Chester and advise us immediately of the State and condition of your Ships and the occurrences you may have met with. The Board wish you health and success and I am Sir

Your very Obedient hble servt
JOHN BROWN Secy

[TO GEORGE WASHINGTON]

August 31st: 1780

Sir

The Board have been honored with yours of the 15th. instant. Congress have Ordered the Saratoga with dispatches, under the direction of a Secret Committee of Conference with the Minister of France, the Frigates Trumbull & Dean are Ordered out upon A Cruize* the Confederacy is the only Continental frigate now in this Harbour but neither manned or victualed for the Sea. Thus sir we have given you a state of the Continental Navy in this Department and are with great respect

your Excellencys

Most Obedient Servants

*With directions to keep a good look out for the Second Division of the french Squadron, and give to the Com-

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manding Officer thereof every information respecting the number and situation of the British fleet off Rhode Island.—

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON]

September 2d. 1780

Sir

Congress have laid before the Board of Admiralty a petition signed Charles Miller for Blair McClenachan and the rest of the owners of the Privateers Holker and fair American with directions to the Board to take order thereon. The Petition sets forth "That the said Privateer fair American having fitted out here on three Months Cruise Against the enemies of the United States from the 25th July last, that said privateer having within the said time been very fortunate in taking Prizes which she was obliged to man in order to send them into Port, and by which reason she the said Privateer became at last so scarce of hands as to Oblige her to return up the River in Order to take her Men, Provisions &c again on board.

That before said Privateer could get her men & Provisions on board the frigates Trumbull & Deane sent their Boats along side and took out Twenty one Men which if said men cannot be got again it will break up the Cruise to the great detriment of the Owners, your Petitioners therefore pray that an Order may be Issued for the delivery of said men, that the said Privateer may be enabled to pursue her Cruise."

The Petition further sets forth "That said frigates

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have likewise been on board the Privateer Brig Holker which is exactly under the same circumstances with the Fair American and took nineteen or twenty out of her, she being likewise detained for want of said men. and pray that an Order may be Issued for the delivery of said men." The Board too have been informed that you have pressed a number of men out of the Privateer General Green.

If you or the Captain of the Deane should have pressed any men out of any of these three Privateers, you are hereby directed to deliver them to the Officer or Officers of either of those privateers who may apply to you for them. We are with great respect

Sir

Your very hble serts

[TO CHARLES MILLER]

September 2d 1780

Sir

Congress have sent the Board of Admiralty a Petition signed by you for Blair MClenachan and the rest of the owners of the Privateers Holker and fair American representing that the Trumbull & Deane frigates had pressed a number of men out of those privateers &c &c and have directed us to take order thereon. We have agreeably to the request [of] said petition, written to James Nicholson Esq. commander of the frigate Trumbull to deliver any man they may have pressed out of those Privateers to the Officer or Officers of either of

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them who may apply to him for them and send the letter enclosed to be forwarded by you. We are with much respect

Your very hble servant
JOHN BROWN

[TO THE MINISTER OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES¹]

September 4th 1780

Sir

Your letter of the 1st. instant directed to Mr. Jones Chairman of a Committee of Conference requesting that he would inform you if the two Continental frigates then in the river could convoy three Vessels ladened with flour and other provisions destined for your Squadron and Army to Boston, was read the 2d in Congress and referred to this Board to take order thereon. We are to inform you that the Commanders of the frigates Trumbull & Deane received their Sailing Orders on the 29th ultimo to proceed immediately to sea and we have reason to believe were out of the River when we were furnished with a translation of your application. These frigates are Ordered to Cruize for three weeks and then to return to the Delaware.

When they arrive they may be Ordered to Convoy the three Vessels with provisions &c to Boston if they should then be here or the frigate Confederacy if she should be fitted for the Sea in time may be employed in that business.

¹ The Chevalier de la Luzerne.

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The Board would wish to be informed when your Ships with Provisions will be ready to Sail.

We are your Excellencys
Most Obt. hble Servts.

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

September 5th 1780

Gentn

The Board have before them your letter of the 14th Augt. We are sorry to find that you have met with so much difficulty with the British seamen on board your prison Ships. The same severe discipline which the British use with regard to our men, exercised upon their men would we beleive prevent their doing mischief and suppress their refractory spirits. It appears to us to be perfectly consistent with the character of General Lincoln as a man of honor to solicit that the Marine prisoners we have made should be sent to the enemy in consequence of our Naval Prisoners taken at Charles Town being released, but we think his application to the Council was not altogether proper; and the council it seems veiwed it in that light when they referred it to your Board.—At the time Admiral Arbuthnot arrived off Sandy Hook, a number of Prisoners were on board the flags in this river which brought our Seamen from Charles Town ready to sail for New York. This Board taking up the matter in the same point of consideration as you have done thought it improper that they should proceed, and applied to Congress for their

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sentiments on the subject. They agreed with the Board in Opinion, and they were not suffered to depart until the Ships at New York were thought to have been manned and Admiral Arbuthnot had proceeded with his fleet to Block Island.—

We have in a former letter approved of your sending a flag to Halifax with the Prisoners, for the reasons we have assigned, and we think it justifieable. The enemy instead of sending our Seamen Captured at Charles Town to New England where they belonged, sent them to this place and left them to get home as they might.

We wish that the Credit of the Marine Department were as good as that of Private Merchants and we think it ought to be, for we believe it pays as well and as punctually notwithstanding what may be suggested to the Contrary. The great demand for money made from all quarters ought to teach people patience. We wish it were in our power to learn them this necessary lesson or which would be more Agreeable to us and to them never to let them ask twice for their due. When this cannot be done the only Substitute is fair words. We have written to you to inform us what number of hhds. of Tobacco the Active can carry with a view to provide a Cargo for her. We would have you make particular enquiry at what rate Ships of war of 20, 32 & 40 guns can be built on Contract for Specie in N Hampshire Massachusets, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations and Connecticut, that is to say their Hulls and Spars only to be compleatly finished and give us notice as soon as possible.

We would be obliged to you for an exact Copy of that paragraph of our letter of the 4th August last respecting

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Pritchards Memorial in which the Board gave their Opinion about the mode of distributing a Share where a vacancy should happen in either of the classes formed by Congress for the distribution of Prize shares.

Since writing the foregoing we have [your letter] of the 17th August giving us an Account of the Arrival of the Alliance at Nantasket, and a short Account of the great confusion that had taken place on board of her during the passage. It is with the greatest concern that we see our flag disgraced by such extraordinary conduct, and we shall not be satisfied until this dark business is thoroughly developed and the Offenders punished according to their deserts. At this distance from the place where Captain Landais, the officers and crew of the Alliance and so unacquainted as we must be with the State of things it is impossible to determine accurately what is in every respect most prudent to be done. It seems by the representation of the officers, that the people were mutinous on board the Alliance: that Landais had abdicated the government of the Ship—that a revolution seemed to be brewing &c &c. It is our opinion and you are Accordingly directed immediately to institute a Court of enquiry to enquire strictly into the conduct of Captain Landais from the time he entered on board the Alliance at Port L Orient until her Arrival in Massachusetts Bay. We do not mean at Present that any enquiry should be made into his conduct previous to that period and also into the conduct of the officers who signed the letter to, and the charges against him during that time, and particularly into the cause of their Appointing Lieutenant Degge to the command of the Alliance, and in general to obtain as full a know-

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

ledge of the Steps that led to the Abdication or deposition of Captain Landais, the Appointment of Lieutenant Degge and the mutinous temper which it seems prevailed on board the Ship. You will suspend Captain Landais from all and any command on board the Alliance and as in all mutinies there are ringleaders, it will be proper to enquire for the ringleaders of the Mutiny among the Crew of the Alliance, and put a few of them under confinement and order a Court Martial to be held for their Trial. It seems by the papers you sent us which we now return that there were sixteen passengers in the ship, and that they say they embarked in that frigate as passengers on the public faith of going with all speed that wind & weather would permit to the United States of America. We do not understand how the public faith was plighted to these passengers &c. On what terms, and how such a number of passengers came in the Alliance we are yet to learn. We presume that some of them at least ought to pay their passages. We wish you to enquire in this matter. You will immediately, [if this is not] already done, procure a return of the Stores on board the Alliance, as otherwise there may be, amidst the confusion which hath taken place, pilfering and destruction. Transmit to us an invoice of the public goods brought in the Ship; and if there should have been any private merchandize imported in her see that the freight is paid before the delivery thereof.

We have Appointed John Barry Esqr. Captain, and Hoysted Hacker Esq first Lieutenant of the Alliance, the other Officers you will Appoint giving the preference to Seniority where qualifications are not wanted.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Captains Barry, & Hacker will be soon at Boston and we trust their activity and prudence will facilitate the Measures you shall adopt for Speedily fitting her out. She must be got ready for Sea as soon as possible, and if you cannot go on without assistance you must ask it of government in the most pressing terms. The generous exertions of our illustrious ally in our favour require on Our part equal Ardour to prepare to Co-operate with her fleet and army.

We should be glad to know whether Mr. Bradford hath on hand [any supplies] belonging to the public which he hath not yet had any Orders to dispose of, that we may apply to Congress for an Order to appropriate them to the use of the Navy—we have neither money nor resources here. If the Alliance will bear the 18 Pounders she hath bro't from France we would have them Mounted in the places of her present Cannon.—

We have heard that her Mizen Mast hath been Steped further Aft, and that great Alterations hath been made in her Accommodations. Let us know by whose Orders those Alterations have been made; and if by Shifting her Mizen Mast her Sailing hath been impeded let it be restored to its old berth. We have desired you in a prior Letter to [inform] us what number of the Hhds of Sugar you had used in fitting out the Trumbull & Deane which were Ordered to be appropriated towards building the 74, but have not received any answer. The Trumbull & Deane sailed on a Cruize the last week we most heartily wish them Success, for on them we build our hopes of present supplies and in a great degree of future resources. The last post bro't a packet for this Board containing letters for the Presi-

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dent of Congress and some private Gentlemen. Letters to the president and some private Gentlemen ought not to be sent directed to us, for by that means in the present instance we become chargeable with letters which by the resolutions of Congress are exempted from Postage and with the postage too of Letters of Private persons.

We are Gentn

Yr. Hble servts

P: S: Any Packages on board the Alliance directed to John Brown are to be delivered to his order without demanding the freight.

[TO CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY]

Septemr. 5th 1780

Sir

The Board have appointed you to the command of the Continental frigate Alliance now in the Port of Boston. You are therefore directed to repair thither as soon as possible, and when you arrive apply to the Honble the Commissioners of the Navy Board of that Department who will give you directions for your conduct in fitting and preparing the Alliance for Sea with all possible despatch.

I am Sir

Your very hble Servant

by Order

J: BROWN Secy

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[TO LIEUTENANT HOYSTED HACKER]

Septemr. 5th 1780

Sir

The Board have appointed you Senior Lieutenant on board the frigate Alliance now at the Port of Boston you are hereby directed to repair immediately to that place and use your best endeavours in preparing that ship with all possible despatch for the Sea.—

I am Sir

Your very hble servant

J BROWN Secy

[TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA]

Septemr. 7th 1780

Gentlemen

The Board of Admiralty some time in the Spring of the present year agreed with James Wilson Esq. for Masts for the Navy of the United States to be cut up Schuylkill, and consented that Captain Leary a Captain of Marines should Superintend the workmen who were to be employed in that business. On the fourth instant the Board received a Letter from Captain Leary dated Reading Septr. 1. 1780 informing them that he was intirely interrupted in the important business they were pleased to direct him to perform near the Blue Mountain, by the inroads & depredations of the savages in that part. That he had represented these matters to the

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Council of this State, and hoped that the Board would use their interest with them, as well that the defenceless Inhabitants of the frontiers might be protected; as to secure those parties at work under his direction in that part of the Country. The Board are informed that masts suitable not only for our Ships, but for the Ships of our illustrious ally may be cut in that quarter that in fact a number of very fine Masts are cut, and ready to be hauled to the River that many more may be procured if protection should be afforded to the workmen.

The same force that would protect the inhabitants of that part of the Country; and we believe that there is no other place where masts can be had without requiring larger guards than will be necessary at the place where Captain Leary is. A Company of fifty or sixty men might be sufficient for the purpose. You are sensible gentlemen of the importance of procuring Masts for the purposes mentioned and we do not doubt but that you will furnish a force sufficient for the protection of the workmen employed in this necessary business.

We are Gentl

Your hble servts

[TO WILLIAM ELLERY¹]

Septemr. 9th 1780

Sir

The Board request that on your arrival at Rhode Island, you will enquire respecting the Pigot Galley

¹ Member of the Board of Admiralty.

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

belonging to the United States, and if you think it advisable make sale of the said Galley and apply the proceeds towards recruiting men for the frigate Alliance supplying the Officer with money who may be at Rhode Island for that purpose.

The Board request that you will also make enquiry respecting a Small Schooner called the Phœnix which they have been informed is under the care of Mr. Nathl. Shaw at New London and Order her to be sent round to this port where she is wanted for an express boat.

I am Sir

Your Obt. servt.

J BROWN Secy

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

Septemr. 12th 1780

Gentlemen

We were yesterday favoured with your several Letters of the 23d. 28th & 31 ultimo, and not having time by this post to answer your requisition minutely we must in general observe as to money matters that the admiralty are intirely destitute of Cash and so low is the present state of the Treasury that although we have held a Warrant dated the 5th August for 700,000 dollars, we cannot yet obtain 200,000 to victual and man the Confederacy now riding in the stream, so that we despair of any Assistance from the Treasury even to get that frigate to Sea.

We are concerned to find that the conduct [of] Cap-

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tain Officers and Crew of the Alliance occasions you so much trouble. The enclosed letter contains an Order from Doctor Franklin to Captain Landais which by Captain Bells endorsment you will perceive Captain Landais refused to receive, and consequently omitted bringing the powder, and Fusils mentioned therein. This should be noticed by the Court of enquiry.

The Board having lately appointed Captain John Barry to the command of the Alliance, he in Company with Mr. Ellery a member of this Board set off for Boston on Sunday morning, with whom you will consult on the requisites necessary for fitting the Alliance—in the interim we shall represent to Congress the purport of your several Letters and use our utmost exertions to obtain you relief.

Captain Langdons Accounts are under examination therefore they cannot be returned until a report is made thereon. Congress have at this time the pay of the Officers of the Navy Department under consideration so that Mr. Hendersons Salary with others will be fixed in a few days.

We are Gentn

Your ms: Hble Servts.

[TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED]

September 13th 1780

Sir

The low state of the public Treasury having hitherto prevented this Board from being able to complete the Continental frigate Confederacy for Sea, they have now

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

the Means of effecting that desireable business by the Arrival of a prize Snow at this Port, taken by the Ship Saratoga, and laden with 232 puncheons Rum the Continental Moiety of which, it is expected, will complete the Confederacy. But as the sale of that Article is dull, and in the private way will be attended with delay, the Board request the interposition of your Excellency and Council for permission to dispose of it at Public vendue as the speediest way to raise funds for the valuable purposes above mentioned, and as the public exigencies may occasion similar applications to your Excellency from this Board in future we wish your Excellency to recommend to the Assembly to tollerate the disposing of Continental Prizes at Public vendue.

We are yr. Excllys

Obt. servants

[TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON]

Septemr. 14th 1780

Sir

As by your orders dated the 29th August last, you were directed in concert with the frigate under your command to cruize for three weeks, at the expiration thereof to return to Chester.

You are hereby directed to continue your Cruize in company with the Deane until both Ships provisions are nearly expended unless some unforeseen circumstance renders your returning sooner into port necessary. Captain Young of the Saratoga brought in yesterday a Prize Snow with 234 Puncheons of Rum he is ordered

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to proceed with his Ship immediately to Sea and endeavour to join you. Wishing you a Successful Cruize

We are sir

Your very hble servants

by Order

JOHN BROWN Sec:

[TO CAPTAIN JOHN YOUNG]

September 14th 1780

Sir

You are hereby directed to proceed immediately to Sea and cruize upon this Coast, off Sandy hook, Charlestown South Carolina or any other part of the Coast which you may judge will be most suitable for Annoying the trade of the enemy taking, sinking, burning and destroying all the Ships and Vessels of the enemy you may meet with. All such Prizes you may take and send into this port are to be addressed to the Board of Admiralty. The prizes which you may be obliged through necessity to send into other ports, you are to direct to the care of the Continental Agents of the District. You are always to observe that you are to order your prizes into this port in preference to any other when winds, weather, and other circumstances will admit of it unless it should be more hazardous than to go elsewhere. You are to endeavour to join the frigates Trumbull & Dean now Cruizing under similar Orders and Act in Concert with them, but should those Ships return into port before your provisions are nearly expended, you are to continue your Cruize until your

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provisions are expended, unless some unfortunate circumstance renders your returning sooner into port necessary.

At the expiration of your Cruize you are to return to Chester in the Delaware and advise the Board immediately with the state and condition of your Ship, and of the occurrences you may have met with. You are to keep a good look out for the second Division of the French Fleet which is daily expected on this Coast, and give the commanding officer thereof every information in your power respecting the number and situation of the British fleet off Rhode Island.—You are to take notice that the Chevalier De Ternay commander of the French Squadron stationed on these Coasts hath adopted the present Signals of the Navy of these States, to be Observed between the Vessels of the most Christian King and those of these States with this only difference that those who have not an American flag will hoist a Dutch one in the room of it at the same Mast.

I am Sir

Your obt. hble servant

JOHN BROWN Secretary

[TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY BOARD OF THE
EASTERN DEPARTMENT]

19th September 1780

Gentlemen

We are favoured with your letter of the 4th instant. Without a resolve of Congress for that particular purpose we do not think we are Authorized to direct the

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Issuing Rations to the men Captured at Charles Town or an allowance for their travelling Expences especially as they received Orders on the Issuing Commissary at the different Posts on the road for Rations. Their time of service being expired they conceived themselves to be discharged, and refused to enter on board the Confederacy. Some of those Officers had money advanced to them here on Account of which the Navy Board of the Middle District will inform you by this post.

Mr. Bradfords letter relative to 2,500 pieces of Rusia Duck in his hands was referred to this Board who yesterday presented the following report. That all the Canvass be delivered to the Navy Board E: D: and that they be directed to reserve thereout a sufficient quantity for the immediate use of the Navy within their Department and to make sale of the residue, with said report we have sent up your several letters of the 23d 28 & 31st. ultimo, and have earnestly solicited Congress on your behalf, we expect the report will be taken under consideration this day and shall by the next post inform you of the result. We are convinced that Congress are disposed to give you every assistance in their power, but the low state of the Treasury scarcely supply a sufficiency for supplying the Army from hand to mouth. Our principal dependence for Navy supplies are upon Prizes as the Trumbull, Deane & Saratoga are now Cruizing—the latter sent in a snow with 234 puncheons of Rum.—

We observe your urgency for procuring a Cargo for the Active. If it cannot be done at Boston we think it would be adviseable to send her round to this port rather than risque at this time a Cargo from hence to

OUT-LETTERS OF THE BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

Boston. We desire you would consult with Mr. Ellery on that subject.

The Board has lately received a Letter from Benjamin Harrison junior of James River Virginia advising his being prepared to load the Hanah & Molly with Coals upon her Arrival.

The loss of that vessel is another disapointment it is not in our power to remedy the evil here, we cannot hire or purchase a Vessel for the purpose.

We are Gentn

Your Ob't Servants

F LEWIS
per Order

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